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NO 7196 MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1988 RAJAB 26, 1408 AH 16 PAGES 150 FILLS

Missile fired at Tehran

Iraq beats back Iranian offensive

BAGHDAD, March 13. (Agencies): Iraq said today its warplanes attacked a supertanker off the Iranian coast, while its ground forces beat back an Iranian offensive in a pre-dawn battle in the central sector of the Gulf war front.

Iraq also said today it had fired a missile at Tehran in retaliation for Iranian shelling of civilian areas in its northeastern province.

A military spokesman said the missile was launched at 9.11 pm (1811 GMT). No more missiles would be fired if Iran halted the shelling, he said.

which hundreds of people were killed in missile and bomb attacks on population centres.

The Iraqi spokesman said Iran broke one of Iraq's conditions for halting the barrage by attacking civilian areas. "Our retaliation will spare no nest of the criminals."

Message

"The Iranian rulers who were forced to stop the war of the cities after being taught very bitter lessons, thought they would spare their capital from Iraqi attacks and then resume shelling Iraqi border towns," the spokesman said.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein visited the northern sector of the Gulf war front after the shelling began, according to Baghdad television.

The official Iraqi news agency said Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz sent a message to Perez de Cuellar saying Iraq would commit itself to the unofficial truce if Iran ceased attacks on residential areas.

The official Iraqi news agency reported more than 1,000 Iranians were killed in a 3 1/2-hour battle last night.

It said two Iranian brigades, backed by tanks and artillery, were involved in the thrust.

"Infantry units of Iraq's 2nd Army corps repulsed the thrust, exterminating the bulk of the force. More than 1,000 Iranians were killed and the others were forced to retreat," the agency quoted an unnamed spokesman as saying.

Attacks

It did not say where exactly the battle took place, but judging from the size of the force, the attack did not appear to signal the beginning of Iran's long-awaited major offensive.

Also, the large-scale attack is expected to be launched in the southern sector of the 733-mile (1,180-kilometre) front, around Basra, Iraq's second-largest city and its only outlet to the Gulf.

Iraq said it launched new

ground attacks early today.

In a separate dispatch, INA, the Iraqi news agency, quoted a military spokesman as saying Iraqi planes "dealt an accurate and effective blow to a very large maritime target," a reference to a supertanker, off the Iranian coast during the night.

It did not give the exact time of the raid, the fourth such claim in five days.

"Iraq will soon cut off Iran's economic lifeline and prevent it from employing oil revenues to finance and prolong the aggression on Iraq," the military spokesman said of the reported ship attack.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi said today the Iraqi air attacks failed in their objective of making Iran accept a UN ceasefire resolution because of "dauntless resistance" by Iranians.

Mousavi, quoted by Irna, said the building of air raid shelters would continue to turn the country "into a strong fortress against any enemy aggression."

Kuwait raps US for closing PLO mission

THE Kuwait Council of Ministers yesterday denounced the decision taken by the United States to close the PLO office in New York at a time when the popular uprising in occupied Palestine is gaining support and recognition worldwide and Israel is being widely condemned for its repressive measures.

The United States' decision contradicts the commitments of the host country agreement and challenges the feelings of the entire Arab nation, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashid said after the weekly meeting of the cabinet.

He said the Council of Ministers reviewed developments on the political arena and the latest reports on development in the Gulf and Arab region and the efforts exerted at the Arab and international levels to end the Iraq-Iran war and support the popular uprising in the occupied territories.

The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) also strongly denounced the US decision to close down the PLO UN mission.



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (left) welcomes the UAE President, Sheikh Zayed, in Cairo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ground-breaking visit

Zayed arrives in Cairo for talks on Arab unity

CAIRO, March 13. (Agencies): United Arab Emirates (UAE) President, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, arrived in Cairo today on his first visit in nearly a decade, for talks aimed at "unifying" Arab ranks.

Sheikh Zayed, the first Arab leader to visit Egypt since most Arab states resumed relations with Cairo four months ago, was welcomed by President Mubarak in a red carpet ceremony.

Sheikh Zayed's programme during his three-day visit includes a trip to the UAE pavilion at Cairo's international trade fair and a state banquet, hosted by Mubarak.

"I strongly believe that the Arabs will have no weight in the world without being solidly united like an impregnable fortress," the UAE leader told government-run Cairo TV on the eve of his trip.

He said his visit aimed at unifying Arab ranks to confront the challenges currently experienced by the nation.

Sheikh Zayed last visited Cairo in 1977 to mediate between Egypt and Libya, who fought a brief border war. Most Arab leaders have avoided visiting Egypt after its late President, Anwar Sadat, made his historic trip to Jerusalem in late 1977 which was followed by the signing of the US-sponsored Camp David treaty with Israel.

Judge probes Nepal tragedy

KATHMANDU, March 13. (Reuters): The grim task of cremating the victims of Kathmandu's soccer stampede went ahead today as a judge began probing why dozens of people were killed as they rushed to shelter from a violent hailstorm during a match yesterday.

Officials lowered the official count of victims crushed and trampled to death, but one day after the worst tragedy in modern Nepalese history, the recriminations had already begun.

Police accused stadium officials of locking the gates and keeping the keys, survivors spoke of callous taxi drivers refusing to ferry the injured to hospital and doctors blamed inadequate facilities for some of the deaths.

Amir receives Fahd message

SAUDI ARABIAN Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal yesterday delivered a message from King Fahd to HH the Amir of Kuwait.

Prince Saud who is on a Gulf tour later left Kuwait. He earlier visited Qatar, Bahrain and Oman and delivered similar messages to the heads of state.

Saud, reviewed efforts by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to end the Iran-Iraq war. Saudi Arabia has been in touch with the Soviet Union, the United States and other UN Security Council members on ways of enforcing the council's resolution 598 which called for an immediate ceasefire.

Dual blow for Shultz plan

DAMASCUS, March 13. (Reuters): Syria and the US Congress have dealt separate blows to Washington's Middle East peace-making ambitions, diplomats in the region said today.

A week after Secretary of State George Shultz ended a gruelling nine-day Middle East tour to sell the Reagan administration's detailed peace plan, Syria described it as unacceptable in its present form.

The diplomats said the US decision to close the PLO mission to the United Nations would also harm Washington's credibility as an independent mediator.

arrives in Washington tomorrow, has said he will tell President Reagan he opposes the US initiative.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his Labour Party have welcomed the initiative.

Tens of thousands of Israelis at a rally in Tel Aviv's Main Square appealed to Shamir yesterday to say yes to a US peace initiative.

Tzvi Reshef, one of the Peace Now activists who organised the demonstration, estimated the crowd at 100,000.

"One hundred thousand people last night in this square sent a clear message to Prime Minister Shamir: You can't say no to peace plans in our name," Reshef told the crowd.

Pakistan to decide on Afghan issue today

QUETTA, Pakistan, March 13. (Reuters): Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said today Pakistan would take a final decision tomorrow whether to sign a UN-mediated Afghan peace accord in Geneva.

He told reporters he had completed a process of consultations and "will take a final decision tomorrow," when the peace talks in Geneva resume after a two-day break.

"You will know whatever decision is made."

"We have to inform them of our decision by March 15," Junejo told a meeting earlier in the day in Quetta, capital of Baluchistan province bordering Afghanistan and Iran.

The meeting was the latest in a series of consultations by the prime minister with politicians, parliamentarians and other groups to arrive at a national consensus on the issue.

The main guerrilla alliance fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government met to select a new leader today amid reports the rebels may send a delegation to Geneva.

Guerrilla sources said the new leader would be announced later, perhaps tomorrow when indirect talks in Geneva between Pakistan and Afghan delegations resume after a weekend recess.

The sources said the guerrillas plan to send a team to Switzerland to meet with the government for the resignation yesterday of the alliance's leader, Mohammad Younis Khalis.

The guerrillas have disassociated themselves from the talks and Khalis, an elderly Islamic fundamentalist, feared a rebel delegation could be led into contacts with Afghan negotiators.

The rebels say they are willing to hold direct talks with Moscow but not with the Kabul government.

He and Mubarak are due to hold their first formal talks tomorrow, which officials said would deal with the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-held West Bank and Gaza Strip, the new US peace plan, the Gulf war and inter-Arab relations.

The two leaders last met in January when Mubarak toured the Gulf states.

Sheikh Zayed said in a statement released on his arrival that he hoped his visit would help efforts to solve problems facing Arab and Muslim countries.

"Events in the Arab world showed that Egypt's absence was not normal and we all felt the vacuum," he said.

He also declared amnesty for jailed foreigners. Some 130 foreign prisoners were freed last week and 400 Libyans released the week before.

Khaddafi was quoted as saying Egyptians should tear down the Israeli embassy with their bare hands and kill every Israeli and American in their country.

Khaddafi said that his country does not sponsor terrorism and added "Libyans do not command diplomacy and thus fail to express their stands that they are not terrorists."

At the cremation sites on the banks of the Bagmati River, relatives and friends gathered for the burning of the victims in a series of ceremonies expected to last several days.

As the Hindu funeral rites went on, eyewitnesses described the scene in the stadium.

They talked of locked gates and police refusing to open them without permission from their superiors. But the police, three of whose colleagues were listed among the dead, denied that they were responsible.

The stadium today was locked again, only twisted fences and a litter of shoes and torn clothing bearing witness to yesterday's horror in this peaceful Himalayan city.

INSIDE

International	2
Kuwait-Gulf	3,4
Events	5
Editorials	6
Pictures	7
Features	8
Filipino	9
Business	10,11
Classifieds	12
Urdu	13,14
Sports	15,16

ان کے اردو صفحات

○ پاکستان افغانستان کے مسئلے پر حتمی فیصلے کا اعلان آج کرے

○ عراق نے ایران کا ایک ہوا حملہ کیا کر دیا

○ پاکستانی غیارے کو اغوا کرے نوے کے کئی

○ بنگلہ دیش میں مجرموں کی پابلیش

○ طالبہ کی ہوسٹیاٹ

WEATHER

PARTLY cloudy weather with light to moderate northwesterly wind. State of sea: slight to moderate

High water: 10.00 am, 7.00 pm
Low water: 3.00 am, 2.00 pm

Sunrise: 5.59 am
Sunset: 5.55 pm

Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 28°C/82°F
Ahmad: 20°C/68°F
Fallaka: 20°C/68°F

Minimum temperature expected: Kuwait: 23°C/73°F
Ahmad: 20°C/68°F
Fallaka: 20°C/68°F

Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 13°C/55°F
Ahmad: 15°C/59°F
Fallaka: 15°C/59°F

Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 28 per cent
Ahmad: 58 per cent
Fallaka: 60 per cent

Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 20 per cent
Ahmad: 40 per cent
Fallaka: 40 per cent

Thrice around the world in yacht

FREMANTLE, Australia, March 13. (Reuters): Thousands of wellwishers on sea and land gave lone yachtsman Jon Sanders a tumultuous welcome here today when he completed the first solo trip circumnavigation of the globe.

The 48-year-old Australian, a former sheep-shearing contractor, braved cold weather, icebergs and mountainous seas on his 94-week voyage aboard his 45-foot (14.5 metre) yacht Parry Endeavour.

His first request when he got ashore was "a decent feed". Sanders had recently been liv-

ing on dry biscuits and vegemite yeast paste, instant pudding and dried fruit after throwing most of his canned food overboard when it went bad.

After his first beer in nearly two years, he said: "That's beaut, but if I drink too many now, I'll fall over."

Worst

Sanders, who left Fremantle on May 25, 1986, in gale force winds, driving rain and huge seas, finished under a cloudless blue sky in a gentle 12-knot breeze.

He said the worst part of the

voyage was the southern ocean.

"I was down there for a long time and it was cold with enormous seas. The boat was constantly damp and everything was covered with mildew," he said.

Sanders was greeted on shore by his sister and an aunt. Both his parents died while he was on the voyage.

His brother escorted him for the last 10 miles in a yacht in which Sanders had previously sailed non-stop around the world twice.

In his 658 days at sea, Sanders covered about 55,000 nautical miles.

Avalanche kills six in Austria

VIENNA, March 13. (Reuters): An avalanche of snow smashed into hotels in the Austrian ski resort of St Anton today, killing six people, police said.

A spokesman at the Tyrolean police headquarters in Innsbruck said four of the dead were Swedish holidaymakers and the other two were Austrians.

Two of the Swedes were flown by helicopter to Innsbruck but were found to be dead, the spokesman said.

One of the Austrian victims was named as local hotel owner Aloisia Strolz but the names of the other dead were not immediately released.

Police said 10 people were buried when the huge wall of snow smashed into a group of 15 hotels and guest houses 500 metres (yards) from the town centre at 6.50 am (0950 GMT). Four people were rescued alive.

The avalanche destroyed four houses and sent survivors fleeing in their night clothes. Some 300 workers, including firemen, police, ski instructors and mountain rescuers, worked to free the victims as snow whipped up by fierce winds lashed the resort.

Khaddafi tears up travel ban lists

BEIRUT, March 13. (Agencies): Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi publicly tore up lists of people banned from travelling outside Libya and returned seized passports to their owners, the official Libyan news agency Jana said.

"Libya is the land of freedom. There should not be a person imprisoned or another banned from travelling," he told crowds outside the Tripoli passport office yesterday.

Right

Khaddafi said travel bans were shameful because they violated human rights, reported Jana.

He said only courts had the right to prevent a person travelling abroad.

"Only the People's Court has the right to take the decision. If a person is wanted for military

service, please do not allow him to travel during this period.

"But once this reason is removed he becomes free to go."

Earlier Khaddafi called for abolition of the death penalty, saying it should be replaced with punishments such as life sentences.

He also declared amnesty for jailed foreigners. Some 130 foreign prisoners were freed last week and 400 Libyans released the week before.

Khaddafi was quoted as saying Egyptians should tear down the Israeli embassy with their bare hands and kill every Israeli and American in their country.

Khaddafi said that his country does not sponsor terrorism and added "Libyans do not command diplomacy and thus fail to express their stands that they are not terrorists."

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As the Hindu funeral rites went on, eyewitnesses described the scene in the stadium.

They talked of locked gates and police refusing to open them without permission from their superiors. But the police, three of whose colleagues were listed among the dead, denied that they were responsible.

The stadium today was locked again, only twisted fences and a litter of shoes and torn clothing bearing witness to yesterday's horror in this peaceful Himalayan city.

Move to set up GCC fleet

BAHRAIN, March 13. (Reuters): Gulf Arab state-owned petrochemical companies are considering plans to set up a joint fleet to export their products, industry officials said today.

"Shippers have raised their prices and the rates now are unrealistic. If they continue we are considering alternatives including our own fleet," one official said.

The six-nation GCC is due to

hold its first conference on marketing petrochemical products in Abu Dhabi next Tuesday and the official said he expects plans to start a joint fleet to be discussed at the three-day meeting.

Oil-producing states in the region have spent billions of dollars on developing a petrochemical industry and are involved in complex trade talks with the European Economic Community on an accord to open new markets.

Thirty drowned

NEW DELHI, March 13. (Reuters): Thirty people drowned when a ferry overturned on a reservoir in central India, the Press Trust of India reported today.

The victims from today's accident included a mother and her six children and a group on their way to a wedding, the news agency said in a delayed report.

Only 10 people were rescued by villagers living near the Rihand Dam reservoir in Madhya Pradesh state, the report said.

INTERNATIONAL

Stop Bush, Dole appeals on TV

Jackson wins in South Carolina

WASHINGTON, March 13. (Agencies): Jesse Jackson easily won the Democratic caucuses in his native South Carolina, while Sen. Bob Dole went on Illinois television last night to plead for Republican votes in his bid for the presidential nomination.

Dole appealed directly to voters to stop Vice-President George Bush from clinching the Republican nomination in Tuesday's Illinois primary.

Jackson took a commanding lead in the caucuses and maintained a better than 2-1 margin over the uncommitted, who represented the second-largest bloc of delegates being elected to county conventions in South Carolina.

With 59 per cent of the precincts reporting, Jackson won 4,796 county convention delegates for 53 per cent, while the uncommitted trailed with 1,813 delegates

for 20 per cent. Tennessee Sen. Albert Gore was in third place with 18 per cent and other candidates were far behind.

"I know that I'm the underdog in this race... I'm not stonborn but I don't give up easily," the Kansas senator Dole said in a nationally televised speech.

A new opinion poll showed Dole likely to lose in Illinois as he did in last week's southern primaries, where Bush shut him out. Analysts said Bush's ties to President Reagan were the determining factor.

"I've been carrying the ball for President Reagan for seven years," said Dole, the senate Republican leader. "Maybe someone else got the credit, I'm the best candidate. I can win in November."

He said many opinion polls have shown he is more electable

than Bush. But a Newsweek survey released yesterday showed Bush as leading all the Democratic contenders.

A Chicago Tribune poll published in today's editions also said Bush was far ahead of Dole in Illinois while home state Sen. Paul Simon was leading the Democratic field, followed closely by Jackson.

Conform

The newspaper also endorsed Gore in the Democratic contest, passing over native Simon and Jackson, who has made Illinois his adoptive home state.

"I dare George Bush to debate Bob Dole," Dole told a news conference earlier yesterday. In originating his broadcast from Knox College in Galesburg, he had picked the time and site to conform to Bush's appearance at the same location, he said.

Bush has refused Dole's challenge for a debate.

Gore, whose success in southern primaries on March 8 catapulted him into contention in the Democratic race, had counted on another boost from South Carolina.

"We have worked very hard in this state and I think we have an opportunity to do extremely well here," Gore said during a campaign stop in Columbia, South Carolina.

But Jackson, a native of Greenville, entered the caucuses favoured to get a majority of the 44 delegates at stake.

The South Carolina caucuses are the first step in a process to select national convention delegates from that state. Voters yesterday selected delegates to the county conventions, which in turn select delegates to the state convention.

Prince Edward plans to marry a Catholic

LONDON, March 13. (AP): Prince Edward, the youngest son of Queen Elizabeth II, plans to marry the 22-year-old daughter of a Belgian baroness, a newspaper reported today.

The People, a weekly London tabloid, said the 24-year-old prince has proposed to Georgia May, whose mother, Catherine, was born a baroness in the Belgian family Van Den Branden de Reeth.

Edward would have to give up his rights as fifth in line to the British throne if he married Miss May, a Roman Catholic, the newspaper said.

Britain's 1701 Act of Settlement laid down that only Protestants could be British monarchs.

The newspaper said the couple are awaiting the Queen's permission to be formally engaged.

The newspaper quoted Miss May's jilted boyfriend, New Zealand yachtsman Ed Danby, as saying she told him of the engagement plan in a telephone call last week.

"Edward fought tooth and nail to break up Georgia and myself," Danby, 26, was quoted as saying. "Georgia told me Edward is over the moon."

The Prince met Miss May at a yachting regatta in Cowes in southern England last August, the newspaper said. They have since arranged secret dates at theatres and concerts, arriving separately to avoid media attention, it said.

India rejects truce call from Tigers

NEW DELHI, March 13. (Agencies): The government has rejected the latest call for a ceasefire in Sri Lanka by Tamil rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, an Indian diplomat said today.

The diplomat, who spoke on condition he not be named, said the appeal released yesterday in the southern Indian city of Madras was one "of a series of communications we've received from time to time."

But he said Prabhakaran's actions in Sri Lanka do not match his words.

Attack

The diplomat said that Prabhakaran's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the largest of the rebel groups operating in Sri Lanka, continue to attack rival Tamil militants.

The diplomat also said the Tigers have refused to surrender their weapons, as called for in an Indian-brokered peace accord signed last July and aimed at ending nearly five years of Tamil guerrilla warfare.

Tamil militants are seeking an independent homeland in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

In the communique made public in Madras, Prabhakaran renewed the Tigers' appeal for a ceasefire and negotiations to end the conflict. India has insisted that the Tigers lay down their arms before talks are held.

Prabhakaran said he was sceptical the Sri Lankan Sinhalese majority would abide by the peace accord.

In Colombo, President Junius



Prabhakaran

Jayewardene said today that Sri Lanka was winning its war against terrorism.

Speaking at a religious ceremony at Wadduwa in southern Sri Lanka, Jayewardene said "Sri Lanka is now in a winning position in the war against terrorism."

The President said the government was taking every step to stop guerrilla violence with Indian troops being deployed in the North and East and Sri Lankan troops in the South.

The government is grappling with Tamil guerrillas fighting for a separate state in the North and East and a revolt by an outlawed marxist group, comprising young Sinhalese, in the south.

Meanwhile, the death toll from a bus attack last Friday rose to 20 from 17, police said today.

In a separate incident, two Sri Lankan soldiers were shot dead by Tamil rebels and their vehicle torched in northwestern Mannar yesterday, military officials said. At Vavuniya in the North, Indian troops sealed off the farming village of Pandarikulam and detained 15 men during a search for rebels today.

Minehunters

ANKARA, March 13. (Reuters): Turkey plans to invite foreign bids for joint production of mine hunting vessels under a programme to modernise its Navy, military sources said today.

Foreign firms with mine hunting technology are likely to be invited to bid for the project in the next few months.

Turkey has a total of 34 coastal and inshore minesweepers but no mine hunters.

11 dead in Punjab violence

AMRITSAR, March 13. (Reuters): Sikh extremists abducted two communist activists from their home near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, took them to the house of a village headman and murdered all three in cold blood, police said today.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) members, identified as Chanchal and Iqbal Singh, died on the spot. The headman, Gurdeep Singh, died later in hospital.

Police said the six killers escaped.

In Amritsar itself, rarely a target for gunmen fighting for a separate Sikh state, three Sikhs opened fire on a group of Hindus playing cards in a market.

Injured

Two Hindus were killed and five injured, three critically.

A head constable and two villagers—a Sikh and a Hindu—were also killed in other parts of Punjab, police said.

More than 350 people have died in Sikh extremist violence this year, raising expectations New Delhi will announce a state of emergency in the north-western state bordering Pakistan.

Two extremists died in other incidents early today. In one, police raided a farmhouse outside Amritsar and shot dead one of four Sikh suspects sheltering there.

In the other incident, a Sikh was beaten to death by angry villagers after he and another man tried to take over a headman's house in Faridkot district.

Kohl to visit Moscow

BONN, March 13. (Reuters): West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will pay a long-awaited visit to Moscow this autumn and play host to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Bonn in the first half of next year, the chancellery said today.

Announcements made simultaneously in Bonn and Moscow ended months of speculation about possible visits and confirmed that relations were back on a cordial path after a chill last year. Dates for both trips will be decided later.

Kohl had said publicly he wanted Gorbachev to come to Bonn in the first half of this year—during West Germany's sixth-month presidency of the European Economic Community.

During a visit to Bonn two months ago, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze ruled out a Gorbachev visit so soon and, according to West German sources, suggested Kohl should go to Moscow first.



Security guards at the top-secret Nevada test site carry away an anti-nuclear protestor who trespassed into the facility. (Reuters wirephoto)

1,200 detained in Nevada anti-nuclear protest march

MERCURY, Nevada, March 13. (UPI): Nearly 1,200 people were arrested today in one of the largest anti-nuclear demonstrations ever staged at the US nuclear testing centre, an Energy Department spokesman said.

Activist-author Daniel Ellsberg, actress Teri Garr, actor Robert Blake, radio personality Casey Kasem and the Rev. William Sloan Coffin, President of the Sane-Freeze Peace Organisation were among those cited for misdemeanor trespassing.

Energy Department observers and American Peace Test organisers estimated that 5,000 people took part in the protest, which started with a rally and climaxed with the arrest of more than a thousand people who deliberately trespassed onto the top-secret Nevada test site.

"We guess the total number of demonstrators at 5,000 people and almost 1,200 arrested," Energy Department spokesman Chris West said.

The arrested protesters were confined to a 28,000-square-foot (2,600-square-metre) linked

compound until a fleet of two dozen, 45-passenger buses arrived to transport them to the Tonopah, Nevada, jail where they presumably will be released.

"All of the people are going to Tonopah and they will not get a ride back to town on us," West said. Tonopah is located in central Nevada about 300 miles (480 km) northwest of Las Vegas.

The district attorney adopted a policy in April 1987 of not spending money or time to prosecute the hundreds of demonstrators cited for deliberately trespassing onto the test site.

Yesterday's protest marked the beginning of a 10-day non-violent action labelled "reclaim the test site." Jesse Cocks of American Peace Test said at least 30 peace organisations from across the country supported the protest.

"There were no reports of violence," West said.

Demonstrators sang, chanted, carried anti-nuclear weapons banners, listened to speeches, lighted a flame symbolic of the Hiroshima peace flame and then deliberately submitted to arrest

beginning at 1 pm.

About 75 counter-demonstrators lined one side of the roadway leading into the Rhode Island-sized test site as anti-nuclear demonstrators walked toward a cattle guard where 300 sheriff's deputies, Nevada highway patrolmen and private security guards waited with plastic handcuffs.

"Some groups of 50 to 75 people ran across the desert, and the officers had to run them down," West said.

Punched

A group of women carried bronze umbrellas punched with holes and painted with the letters SDI for Strategic Defence Initiative, President Reagan's proposed space-based defence system.

The Nevada test site 65 miles (105 km) northwest of Las Vegas, the country's nuclear weapons testing centre, has been targeted by numerous anti-nuclear demonstrators during the past several years. The largest previous protest took place last May and involved an estimated 3,000 people.

14-year-old Sadhna in a tight spot

LONDON, March 13: A 14-year-old British-born schoolgirl flew from the UK to Pakistan for the arranged Muslim marriage to her 21-year-old cousin.

According to a News of the World report, Sadhna Raja and her husband Shahzad plan to live at her parents' shop in Torquay, Devon.

But the British Home Office warned that under-age Sadhna must not consummate the marriage with her new husband.

A spokesman said: "He runs the risk of breaking the law." The marriage was discovered when Sadhna did not turn up at school and officials contacted her parents.

Her father Tariq said: "The marriage is normal for our religion. She is quite happy." He said that under Muslim law the couple were free to consummate the marriage.

But he added: "We don't talk about that sort of thing."

Second largest diamond unearthed in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG, March 13. (AP): The De Beers diamond firm has announced the discovery of an egg-sized, 599-carat diamond and said it currently is the world's second largest uncut diamond with an estimated cut value of \$30 million.

Uncovered

Officials of the South African company said the white diamond, dubbed "The Big Rock", was found at a mine near Pretoria in July 1986, but its discovery was kept secret to all but a handful of De Beers executives.

De Beers chairman Julian Thompson announced the find at the firm's 100th anniversary banquet in Kimberly on Friday

night. "It's a perfect blue-white colour," said South African gem expert Gaby Tokowski, who will cut and polish the stone.

There have been larger raw diamonds uncovered previously, but they were cut into smaller gems.

In its cut form, the "Big Rock" is expected to be about 350 carats and sell for an estimated \$30 million, the company said.

The 1988 Guinness Book of World Records listed the Cullinan diamond as the world's largest uncut diamond ever found. It was discovered in 1905 near Pretoria and weighed 3,106 carats, or more than 1.25 pounds (one-half kg).

Mosquitoes get involved in politics

DHAKA, March 13. (Reuters): Even mosquitoes have gotten involved in the current political turmoil in Bangladesh.

Retired Colonel Abdul Malek, administrator of the Dhaka Municipal Corporation, said last week that the malaria-carrying insects had increased tenfold in the capital since last November.

He blamed the increase on the opposition-led campaign of strikes aimed at toppling

President Hossain Mohammad Ershad. The strikes halted routine spraying, he said.

Opposition leaders responded by accusing Malek of misappropriating funds allocated for destroying mosquitoes.

A drive against the insects was launched in February after Dhaka residents staged noisy demonstrations demanding quick action to stamp out mosquitoes.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Second bid

ISLAMABAD, March 13. (Kuna): The unsuccessful hijacker of a Pakistan International Airlines Airbus has said it was the second time he had dodged the airport security personnel at Karachi airport by carrying a pistol.

The 35-year-old Abdul Mannan Achakzai, who is under police custody, has in a statement before his interrogators yesterday, said that he had also managed to smuggle a pistol on a Quetta-bound flight from Karachi 15 days ago but abandoned the hijack attempt because when he was about to fulfil his mission the captain had announced landing. He could not therefore go to the toilet to load his pistol.

Soldiers hurt

BEIRUT, March 13. (Reuters): Three Lebanese soldiers were wounded today when unidentified gunmen fired at their barracks in apparent retaliation for the killing of two Christian militia officers, security sources said.

They said the soldiers were taken to hospital after the gunmen strafed their barracks in the coastal town of Halat, a Christian-held area 45 km (27 miles) north of Beirut.

Politicians jailed

MBABANE, March 13. (Reuters): A special treason court trying 12 former Swazi leaders handed down 15-year jail terms for seven accused, including the man once regarded as the kingdom's most powerful politician and a former prime minister.

The six-man tribunal, which had sat behind closed doors since November, jailed disgraced strongman Prince Mfanasibili and ex-Premier Bhekisimpi Dlamini yesterday.

The prince had already been serving a seven-year term for obstructing justice. Dlamini was ousted in 1986 by Swaziland's present monarch, King Mswati.

Bearden dies

NEW YORK, March 13. (Reuters): Romare Bearden, a black abstract painter and collage artist who received a presidential award last year, died early yesterday at New York hospital, his manager said.

Bearden, who was 75, entered hospital six weeks ago with a stroke but he also had cancer, said Julie Kelly, Bearden's agent for the past 13 years. "He was active right up until he went to the hospital. He just had a show that opened in November at the Thomas Segal Gallery in Boston," said Kelly.

Official visit

ATHENS, March 13. (Reuters): New Greek-Cypriot President George Vassiliou arrived in Athens today for a five-day official visit marking his foreign debut since he was elected last month.

Vassiliou will hold talks tomorrow with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu on the problem of Cyprus, where Turkish troops moved into the northern third of the island following a Greek-backed coup in Nicosia in 1974.

Pollution

LONDON, March 13. (AP): Scientists have determined that pollution along Britain's coastline is causing female whelks to acquire male characteristics making it impossible for them to reproduce, a newspaper reported today.

Road accident

ANKARA, March 13. (Reuters): Thirteen people were killed and 35 injured today when a bus and lorry collided on the main Turkish highway between Ankara and Konya to the south, the Anatolian news agency said.

Longest undersea tunnel opened

TOKYO, March 13. (Kuna): Amid fanfare and festivities on a large scale, Seikan tunnel, the world's largest undersea passage, was opened this morning to link the main island of Honshu and the northern island of Hokkaido, considered an engineering feat.

Two opening ceremonies were held on both ends of the 54-kilometre tunnel with 2,000 guests attending and thousands of people who spent last night waiting for their turn to take the first trains to run and cars to pass through the undersea passage.

It took 24 years of excavation and construction, resulting in increasing Japan's land space by more than 180,000 square metres at a cost of an estimated \$54 billion, engineers explained.

Because of the new tunnel for trains and vehicles, the Seikan ferryboat service was abolished today as a sea link between the two islands after a run of 80 years.

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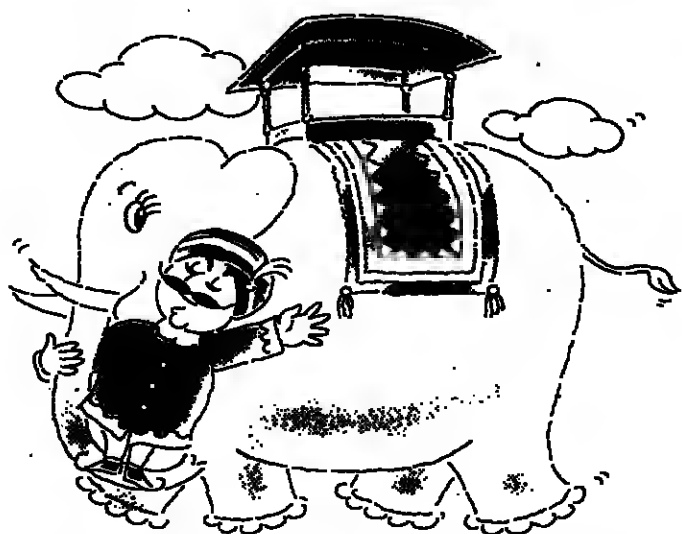
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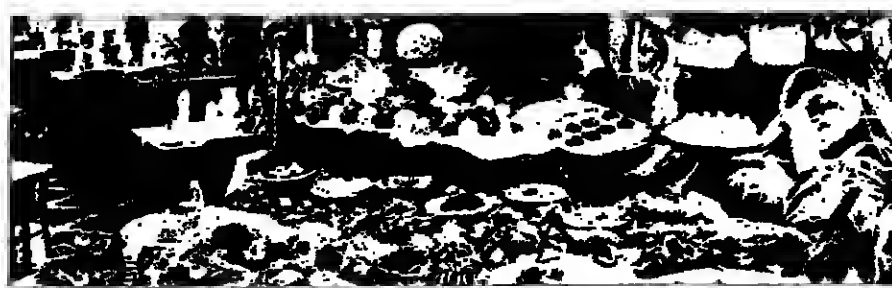


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KUWAIT

Overseas telephone calls

Magnetic cards will be available in late April

By Jadranka Porter

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Communications is to introduce in late April a new international public telephone service which relies on the use of magnetic cards for payment, following an experimental stage which was so successful that the ministry ran out of the special cards.

The new service will be of particular benefit to visiting businessmen and expatriates who are not on the phone but who wish to make overseas telephone calls, said Fadhil Abou Al Hasan, the director of marketing and services at the ministry. The trial period to test the public response to the system designed by a Swiss company began in May last year

when the ministry acquired 10,000 cards and installed two special sets at the telecommunications centre in Kuwait City. By the beginning of this year all the cards had been sold.

50,000 cards

By the end of April the ministry will install 14 more sets in all the telecommunications centres in Kuwait and in the airport transit lounge and 50,000 cards will be available for sale. The cards are priced at KD10, KD5 and KD3. They will be valid for calls to countries with the direct dialling facility.

Abou Al Hasan said one can dial numbers directly in most countries of the world. There is no limit as to the number of cards an individual is allowed to

acquire.

But once the card is lost, warns Abou Al Hasan, no refund will be available. He pointed out that more than one card can be used to complete a long distance call without interruption.

Commenting on the complaints from customers who claim that they have been charged for international calls that have not been answered, Abou Al Hasan said the ministry doubts the veracity of such claims. He said some of these complaints have been investigated but the complainants were unable to prove their claims. He ruled out the possibility that the ministry's computers were faulty registering the calls that did not take place.



● The Undersecretary of Kuwait's Information Ministry, Abdul Aziz Al Jaafar, held a luncheon at the Sheraton Hotel yesterday in honour of Paul Cartor the chairman of the Paris-based Arab World Institute. Picture shows Al Jaafar (right), Cartor (centre) and a guest.

Kuwait's policy hailed

BELGRADE, March 13, (Kuna): A Yugoslav newspaper today hailed Kuwait's internal policy, indicating that this small Arab country with "sharp wit" was able to preserve its stability despite the dangers surrounding it.

Daily "Slobodjenja" published at the Islamic-Majority Bosnia Republic, affirmed that the wisdom and far-sightedness of Kuwait's foreign policy has drawn worldwide respect and appreciation to this Gulf state.

The paper praised Kuwait's investment policy, noting that it became the major banking and financial centre of the Arab world and Western Asia.

The daily stressed that the GCC country will keep the same high standard of living, "even if the flow of oil stops someday, because Kuwaiti investments will replace oil."

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audience

HH the Amir yesterday received Sheikh Jaber Al Ali.

Amiri cables

HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to Indonesia's President Suharto on the occasion of his re-election as president of his country.

The Amir received cables of thanks from Secretary-General of the Islamic States Broadcasting Organisation, chairman of the executive council and chairman of the eighth general assembly on the occasion of the conclusion of their works here recently.

The Amir sent a reply cable of thanks and best wishes. The Amir also received a similar message from board chairman of the International Fund for Promoting Culture in which he expressed his appreciation for the hospitality accorded to them while in Kuwait.

The Amir sent a reply message of thanks for all participants wishing them success in serving the culture and humanity.

Crown Prince cable

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to General Suharto on his re-election as President of Indonesia.

5,000 university students are facing suspension

MORE than 5,000 students who were admitted to Kuwait University during 1986 and 1987 are threatened with suspension, a number of students claimed.

They told a local newspaper, that most of the 5,000 students had already received their first, second, third or final caution, in accordance with a new university examination charter that was put into effect at the start of the 1986-87 academic year.

The implementation began after an academic committee made a study of the performance

of students and recommended stricter examination regulations as a way of improving the academic level at the university.

Students claimed that the new charter was not suitable and would not help to improve the academic standard.

Probation

They also claimed it was a way of dismissing most of the students.

One student, Thuhailan Al Ajmi, said that half the students admitted in 1986 were already on the probation list and the other

half would go on the list very soon because of the difficult conditions imposed by the charter. He said the charter did not recognise that external situations could affect a student's performance.

The newspaper said that out a single student from those interviewed had praised the charter. All had criticised it and called on the university administration to review the charter as soon as possible because it would certainly lead to the suspension of too many students.

Cabinet reviews message from Waldheim to Amir

THE cabinet yesterday held its weekly meeting under the chairmanship of acting Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabab Al Ahmed, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Al Rashed, said after the cabinet meeting that the ministers reviewed the messages exchanged between HH the Amir and President Kurt Waldheim of Austria on the Amir's appreciation of Austria's principled support for the Arab causes and the invitation of Waldheim to visit Kuwait.

In his messages to the Muslim states leaders, the Amir stressed the importance of Kuwait's role in the OIC foreign ministers in Amman, Jordan, Rashed added.

Messages exchanged between HH the Amir and Deputy Premier and Prince Abdulla Bin Abdul-Aziz, Saudi Arabia's Premier and Commander of the National Guards, on the invitation of Sheikh Saad to visit Saudi Arabia, were brought to the attention of the council, he added.

The Finance Minister and representatives of the Civil Service Council and the Islamic legislation department to study separation of jurisdiction of the Kuwait municipality from that of the state real estate and services department and recommend amendments clearly defining their powers.

Rashed said the Council of Ministers was briefed about the messages the Amir sent to the leaders of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference countries on his messages to the members of the Security Council urging them to shoulder their historic responsibilities in checking the deteriorating situation in the region as a result of the escalation of the war between Iraq and Iran.

Rashed said that the cabinet decided to form a ministerial committee including the Minister of State for Municipality and

the Minister of State for Civil Affairs said that the Council of Ministers endorsed the minutes of the municipal affairs committee, reviewed decisions of the 8th higher planning council meeting on the state development plan, approved minutes of the higher committee for planning and major construction projects and went over minutes of the services committee meeting on disputes between government quarters and foreign construction companies and discussed elaborately the proposed rules and regulations eliminating future conflict.

Kuwaiti assistance to Lebanon lauded

GENERAL director of the Lebanese Information Ministry Dr Ayoub Hameed has lauded the Kuwaiti "generous assistance" to Lebanon which were extended in accordance with HH the Amir of Kuwait directions.

In two separate interviews with Kuwaiti dailies published here yesterday, Dr Hameed described the Kuwaiti-Lebanese relations historical, emphasising that Kuwait has always backed Lebanon.

He said the Lebanese people aspire joint Arab work to assist the war-torn country in regaining its unity, sovereignty and in liberating its southern half from the Israeli occupation.

Dr Hameed predicted that the heroic Lebanese national resistance in south Lebanon will play a major role in regaining Lebanese sovereignty and unity.

Regarding the meetings of the general assembly of the Organisation of Muslim Countries' Broadcastings Federation, which ended its deliberations here last week, the Lebanese official said the meeting was an opportunity for consultations on

means to achieve information integration between Muslim countries.

Work begins

THE Civil Identification Department at the Jahra Governorate began work after its first-day opening on Saturday. The department will serve citizens and expatriates in the Jahra Governorate.

Passports must be valid

BRIGADIER Khaled Al Munaiyes, the Director General of Kuwait's General Immigration Department, said all those who have new passports must report to the Immigration Department to have their visas transferred to the new passport.

The same regulation applies to those who enter the country on a visitor's visa, because their residency has expired in their absence and to those who obtain a new passport while in the country on a visit visa and fail to have their visas transferred within the one-month visa period.

He added that people who enter the country on a visitor's visa would be charged KD10 for each day they overstayed their one-month authorised period.

'Maids are needed'

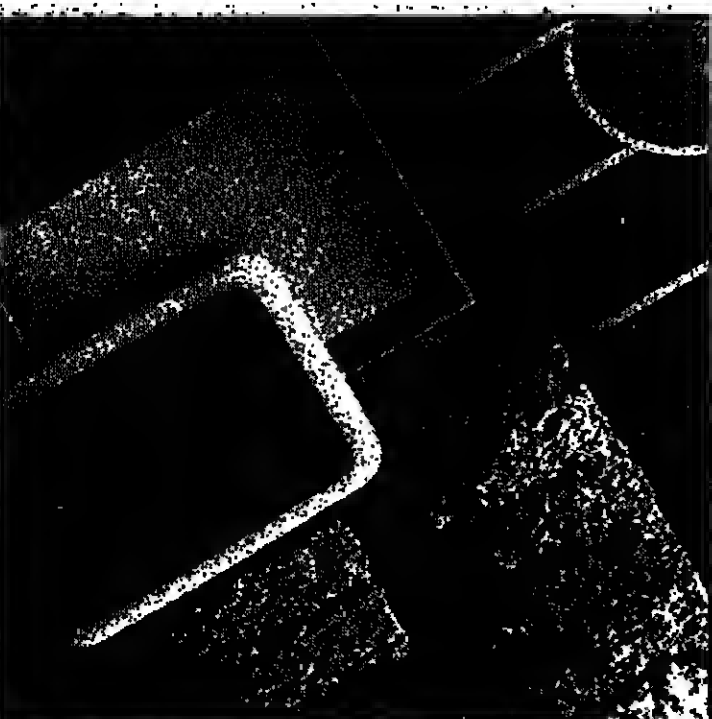
RECENT research findings on the effects of non-Arab maids on family relations show that 46.7 per cent of those surveyed felt maids met the need of household care. Only 5.3 per cent cited different social values as a problem, while 6.7 per cent indicated that maids leaving work without notice was a problem.

Relations between the family and the maid were reported

"good" by 82.6 per cent of those surveyed, while 74.7 of the children questioned said they thought the maid got along well with them because of her leniency and willingness to let them have their own way.

Excessive household responsibilities and duties were cited by 56.4 per cent of those questioned as the reason for hiring domestic help.

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cent and velvety soft. The Haute Couleur line offers eight colours that give your complexion the look to suit your personality.

The Correctives, used in light touches for a healthy glow or to light up your complexion, bring a professional touch. Used over classic powder, it throws into relief or lightens certain areas of your face, or masks imperfections.

Tanker captain fined KD1,500

AN oil tanker captain was fined KD1,500 by Kuwait's Court of Misdemeanours for causing an oil spill in Shuaiba Port and KD576 for the cost of removing the oil from the sea.

The captain said the leaks occurred because of faulty valves of some tanks of the vessel, but added that only a small quantity of oil leaked out.

A ministry employee said the removal cost KD576.

Sentence upheld

KUWAIT'S Court of Misdemeanours upheld the sentence issued by the Court of First Instance against a lawyer convicted of stealing KD19,500 from a client.

The court upheld a two-year sentence of imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation and payment of court costs totalling KD1,001.

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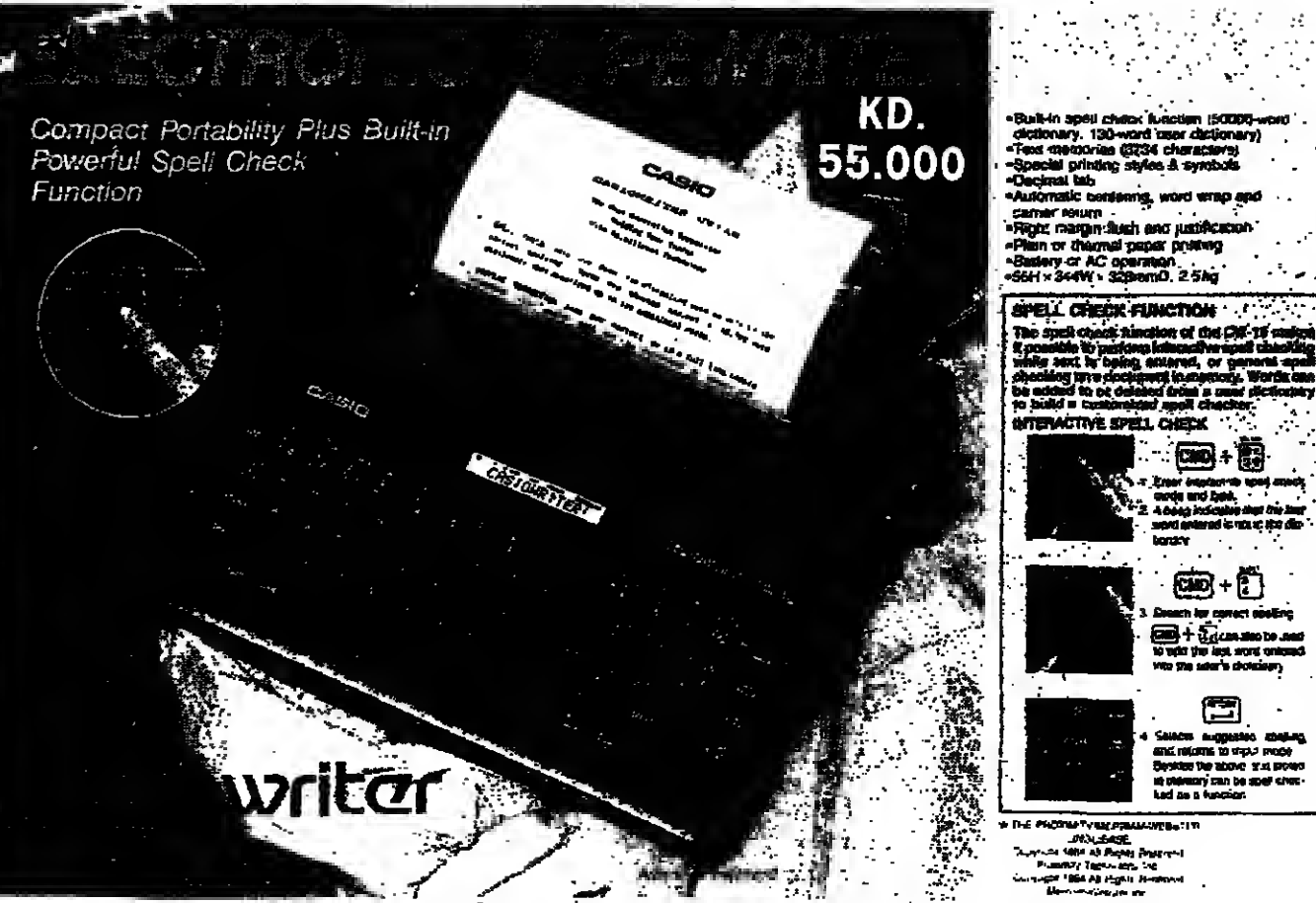
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Institute under fire for poor management

United Indian School tries to spruce up image

By Fathima Ahmed

THE appointment of a new principal may not help to stem the rot at the United Indian School (UIS), Abbasiya, some members of the Indian community in Kuwait have said. They also do not welcome the promotion of the school's principal as its director.

The administrative changes at the UIS were made to spruce up the image of the school, which in recent months came under fire for poor management and an inadequate standard of education.

But UIS' sponsor Sulaiman Kalandar strongly rejected the allegations and defended the appointment of the new principal as a step forward to uplift the image of the school.

Discipline
"I will do everything in my power to provide the best education for the children at my school," he said in a recent interview.

The school has come under fire for allegedly "selling visas", nepotism, favouritism, appointing inexperienced teachers and poor teaching standards. The charges were made by several parents, teachers and some members of the Indian community.

Critics of the school allege that poor management has "affected the behaviour of the children and many parents are threatening to shift their children to other schools."

Some teachers agree with the critics.

"Children are picking up foul words; there is no discipline and most students are not learning anything. They came to the school to learn, didn't they?" asks a teacher, who wishes to remain anonymous.

Racket
The most serious charge is about "selling visas" to teachers and changing domestic visas to working ones.

"This is the biggest problem and racket at the school," claims a teacher. Two teachers were recently recruited from India and allegedly they paid a large amount of money to buy their way into the school. Sources close to the school say that they "are not qualified to teach. They may hold high degrees but this is not enough to become a teacher."

"This is absolute rubbish," asserts Kalandar as he challenges "anyone to prove" the allegations. Ninety-eight per cent of the staff, says Kalandar, is recruited locally. "So far only three people have come from India," he says.

Kalandar discounts such reports as "mere gossip. The Indian community is adept at cooking up gossip and spreading rumours. If these allegations are true, I challenge them to prove it," says Kalandar, who took over the school's sponsorship in early 1987.

The school has a clean bill of health on paper.

All appointments were approved by the private education department, say two school board members — chairman Mr. Varkey and member Stephen Thomas.

Rush
Despite charges and allegations there is a rush for seats at the school mainly due to a large number of expatriates from the sub-continent living in the vicinity in such areas as Hassawi, Abbasiya and Farwaniya. Another advantage is that the school has only one shift in the mornings.

"Our children don't learn much but we send them there because they can be home in the afternoon," said one parent. Other schools in the area offer two shifts — mornings for girls and evening for boys. Most parents prefer morning shift school for younger children. And as such there has been a rush to register children at the school.

The school was set up in 1985 by a group of Indian businessmen. In just over two years the number of students grew from under 65 in 1985 to about 600 this year, showing the need for such an institution in Abbasiya, where the school is located. The majority of the students are Indians. Approximately 30 per cent are Bangladeshis.

Dismissed
"If we were running a business, as some say, then we would take advantage of the opportunity to introduce two shifts at the school. We have the permission. But we don't want to do that," explains Kalandar.

Recently, some alleged irregularities were revealed by teachers, who were fired after serving the school for between eight months and two years.

Last year, one teacher was dismissed after she allegedly refused to give "good grades" to a child whose father is a school board member. She had worked for 19 months.

The teacher was given a termination letter in March last year. She was told "the management was not happy with her work." She did not accept the letter. She had taught at the school for 19 months. "Nineteen months is a long time. They can't say I was 'inexperienced,'" she asserts. As she was recruited locally she never given a copy of her employment contract. "Contracts are not given to teachers," she claims.

Leave salary
After she was sacked, she approached the sponsor and the board members, who promised to look into her case. In July she was given her settlement. The cheque bounced.

"I did not go to court or the police station because I was promised by the board members that I would be taken back." In October 1987 she contacted them again and was told she could go



Kalandar: rejects charges

rejoin in November. That promise never materialised. She was asked to "come anytime and collect her settlement." She has not returned to the school.

Thomas Chandy, a board member, denies the report: "What can I say? People are just slinging mud at us," said Chandy. In the early stages after the school's establishment, the school was facing financial trouble. Trainee teachers were paid only 50 per cent of their actual salary of KD 105 for several months. "They signed for the full amount," says a woman who was closely associated with the school's management. The teachers were also not paid the three-month summer leave in 1986. "But we signed saying we had received the salary," said one teacher. In 1987, they were paid a month's salary and signed for that amount.

Yet, all teachers "signed receipts" claiming they had been paid the full amount "because the school was facing problems and we wanted to help out." No one complained as they expected improvements.

The practice, it seems, is continuing at the school. For example, teachers, who earn about KD 120 according to their contract, are actually paid KD 80 and sign for the full amount of KD 120. Teachers currently working at the school "fear" they might be sacked if they speak against the management.

Kalandar, when asked about such malpractices, retorted: "It might have happened when I was not the sponsor. I can assure you it does not happen now." It is very difficult to prove such allegations because all paper work is in order.

Kalandar says the "teachers are sacked on the advice of the principal and only if they are not good teachers." He claims there were no "unjust removals."

Decline
"I was unjustly removed," claims one of the teachers sacked by the management. "How can one prove or disprove a teacher's ability after serving at a school for several months?" she asks.

Five teachers were dismissed in recent months. Some of them were "reinstated." If a teacher is sacked and then taken back where is the discipline? asks a teacher who was closely associated with the school since its inception in 1985. She resign-

ned because she could not "stand the decline in academic standards, moral values and discipline among teachers."

In the beginning, she claims, the standard of teaching was fair: "Now people who want to change domestic visas are appointed. The quality of teaching has declined," she said.

Investigation
Kalandar seems to be a fairly open-minded person keen on building "a school we'll be proud of" and claims he takes an "active interest" in school activities.

Kalandar asserted: "We will hire only the best teachers. We'll do anything necessary to improve the quality of education." He claims that they have "conducted a thorough investigation" and found the need to revamp the management. They are in the process of expanding the School Board. Two or three more members will be nominated to set up an advisory board. Plans are afoot to construct a school building, equipped with all facilities, such as labs and playground, and upgrade the school by introducing high school studies.

"I give you my word that no irregularities will take place at my school," stressed Kalandar. Only time will prove that our genuine and honest intention is to bring up a generation of children that parents will be proud of, he said.

UIS Chairman Varkey says he will "welcome anyone who wishes to discuss any difficulty he faces at the school."



HH the Amir yesterday met members of the seven-man Arab committee assigned to follow up the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab lands. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry Undersecretary, Sulaiman Al Shaheen (left).

Jordan-PLO committee needs \$13m more for Palestinians

AMMAN, March 13, (AP): A Jordanian-PLO committee ended yesterday discussions on the distribution of \$19 million to Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territories, but one official said another \$13 million were needed to finance various projects.

A Palestine Liberation Organisation spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the money, donated by the Saudi Arabian government, would go to "health, economic, social and educational projects in the occupied territories."

He said an additional \$13

million were needed to support "private institutions, which are suffering various pressures especially during the period of popular uprising."

Contribute
That was a reference to violent clashes between Palestinians and Israeli troops that have raged in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip since Dec 8.

Minister of Occupied Territories Maryam Dudin led the Jordanian team to the committee, while the PLO delegation was headed by Khalil Wazir, the deputy commander of the PLO.

The committee was formed in 1980 under an agreement between King Hussein and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat. Its main aim was to help Palestinians living under occupation and discourage emigration.

At an Arab League summit meeting held in Baghdad in 1980, it was agreed that oil-rich states would contribute \$100 million to help finance development projects in the occupied territories.

Saudi Arabia was the only country to pay its full share of \$30 million.

Kfas distributes awards

THE Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences yesterday held its annual award-giving ceremony for the 1986/87 top graduates of the University of Kuwait and other state institutions, Applied Education and Training Public Authority and secondary schools.

The 118 award winners each got the shield of the foundation, a certificate of appreciation in addition to the financial award.

Each of the university graduates got 750 dinars, KD600 for each of the institutes holders of the General Education Certificate, KD500 for each of the secondary schools, and KD300 for each of the top graduates of the other institutions.

Director general of the foundation Dr Ali Abdalla Al Shamlan addressed the ceremony saying that in addition to the foundation's interest in the outstanding students, it also finances researches and studies tackling youth problems and their aspirations.

Representative of the winning students Fawzia Ali Hussein expressed pride and appreciation at the foundation's concern and that of the foundation's president HH the Amir, for encouraging the bright students and encouraging them.

Hamad returns

MANAMA, March 13, (Kuna): Bahraini Crown Prince and General Commander of Bahraini Defence Force Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa last night returned here concluding a three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates.

Jassar in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, March 13, (Kuna): Kuwait's Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Khalid Al Jassar who is on a five-day official visit to Malaysia will call on the Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad here tomorrow.

Jassar, who is accompanied by the Kuwaiti Director of Islamic Affairs, Nader Al Nouri and his secretary Faisal Husain Al Ghatas, is expected to discuss matters on religious affairs with Dr Mahathir.

Earlier tomorrow, the minister will meet with the Malaysian Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (religious affairs), Dr Yusuf Noor.

Confirming this to Kuna here today, Faisal said the minister is very pleased to be given the hon-

our of meeting the Malaysian Prime Minister tomorrow.

The meeting has been arranged by Dr Yusuf Noor whom Jassar met while in Cairo for an international Islamic research conference recently.

The Kuwaiti minister was officially invited by the Sultan of Selangor to witness the opening of the state mosque "Majid Sultan Salahuiddin Abdul Aziz Shah" at Shah Alam, 25km from here last Friday.

The Kuwaiti delegation is scheduled to leave for home tomorrow evening.

Brothel case woman acquitted

KUWAIT'S Court of First Instance acquitted a woman charged with running a brothel. The prosecution claimed that the defendant had admitted to the crime and had signed the required papers.

The Court of First Instance found that the prosecution had not presented complete documentation or proof of the charge and the defendant claimed that she had been forced to sign the papers.

The prosecution claimed that Criminal Investigation Department officers had entered the house and had found a man in the house. They arrested the man, the defendant and another woman found in the house at the time. The woman accused the defendant of using her house as a brothel.

1,569 applications for houses to be cancelled

AHMAD AL SAMAKA, the Assistant Director General of the National Housing Authority for Applications, said the NHA had begun cancelling applications of 1,569 citizens who had failed to update their applications after repeated attempts by the NHA to have the applicants do so.

These applications had been submitted on or before 1975 and it appeared that the citizens no longer needed the houses, he said. Al Samaka added that houses had been distributed to applicants from this period three years ago.

FAO regional conference

MUSCAT, March 13, (Kuna): Oman's Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Mohammed Bin Abdullah Binzaheer Al Hina'i said the 19th regional conference of the FAO for the Near East will discuss a number of issues related to agricultural development in the area and shortage of food.

The Omani minister who was elected as chairman of the conference said the meetings will also discuss the spread of famine and its direct and indirect effects in the Near East.

Director general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation Eduardo Saouma spoke at the conference on the food and agricultural situation in the world and its effect on the Near East countries.

Honda Motors Co., Ltd. announces Honda F-1 racing activities for 1988 season.

Honda's world champion line-up for 1988

The 1988 Formula 1 Grand Prix season will see Honda engines being used by drivers who, between them, have won five of the last seven World Championship titles. The Honda Marlboro McLaren team will continue to have the services of Alain Prost, World Champion in 1985 and 1986, who is now partnered by Brazil's Ayrton Senna. Reigning world champion Nelson Piquet, who also won the title in 1981 and 1983, will lead Camel Team Lotus-Honda supported by Satoru Nakajima of Japan who will be starting his second season on Formula 1 racing.

Changes to the F-1 regulations this year impose reductions on both turbocharger boost pressure, down from 4 bar to 2.5 bar and maximum fuel capacity, down from 195 litres to 150. To meet these regulations, Honda engineers have designed a completely new V6 turbo engine designated the RA-168E.

This engine naturally draws on the experience gained whilst developing the V6 unit used by the Williams Team to win the Constructors' Championship in 1986 and 1987. Honda's engineers believe that this is the most efficient unit yet produced by them, particularly in the area of fuel efficiency and driveability.

Meanwhile research will be continuing into the development of a 3.5 litre naturally aspirated engine for 1989 when turbocharging will no longer be permitted. The exact configuration of this new engine has not yet been decided.

Responsibilities for 1988 F-1 season will be divided as follows: Senior personnel involved in the 1988 F-1 racing programme will work under the direction of Mr. Takefumi Hiramatsu, Managing Director of Honda R & D.

Mr. Osamu Goto will be F-1 Project Leader, in charge of the development and production of the engines, primarily based in Japan.

Mr. Yutaka Otake will be the Team Manager at the races. Mr. Yoshinobu Noguchi will be the Public Relations and Liaison Officer for the F-1 Team.

Specifications of the 1988 Honda F-1 engine to be raced in Brazil are expected to be as follows:-

1988 Honda F-1 Racing Engine	
Name	Honda RA-168E
Type	Liquid cooled 90 V-6 DOHC 4 Valves/Cylinder
Displacement	1.5 litres
Ignition	C.D.I.
Clutch Type	Dry multi-plate
Fuel feed	Honda electronic fuel injection
Turbo configuration	Twin turbo
Max.power	Over 600PS.

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Contract signed

KUWAIT Institute for Scientific Research yesterday signed a contract with Kuwait National Petroleum Company by which the institute is to study the soil on which Ahmadi refinery is built. Acting general director of the institute Mohammed Al Asfour and Ahmadi refinery director Bader Haji Yousef signed the agreement.

The Staff and Partners of
The Associated Engineering Partnership
extend their deepest condolences to
Mr. and Mrs. Melwin D'Souza
and family
on the sad and tragic demise of their daughter
KEISHA

Dear coin collectors,
Sorry, I'm late!! But this was due to China Mint Company's forming a new department to take special care of panda gold coins, because, as you know, panda gold coins become more and more precious day by day in the world coin market.
Please do come and check the value of the coin you own. Besides, the 1987 panda gold coin is ready for you. Meanwhile, accept best wishes from all of us.
Kuwait Agent: 24 karat panda gold coins Souk Al Muttahida Tel: 2442174

WANTED
A company requires
A Salesman
for home appliances, with 7 years of experience in the local market. He should have a valid Kuwaiti driving licence and transferable visa. Knowledge of Arabic essential.
Candidates should write to: Mr. Khaled, P.O. Box 241, Safat, 13003 Safat, Kuwait, enclosing relevant certificates and testimonials.

Al Mulla celebrates Golden Jubilee



An employee receiving the long-service award from the Chairman Mr. Najeeb Mulla.

The Al Mulla Group, one of the oldest trading companies in Kuwait, started their golden jubilee celebration with a special party for their long-serving employees on March 10, '88 at the Gazelle club. Over 300 employees who completed over 10 years' service were honoured with special recognition plaques on this momentous occasion. The longest-serving employee joined the group in 1952. The trading activities of the group started in 1938 as a small two-man enterprise, acquiring G.E.C. (U.K.) franchise for electrical and domestic appliances. Today, the group has diversified into automotive business, car rentals, domestic appliances, marine, insurance, travel, food, fast food, office equipment and a host of other activities. These include several prestigious projects for C.A.C. plumbing and fire-fighting works including the Kuwait Conference Centre. Another field of diversification was street cleaning system and security services. Today the group is one of the leading Kuwaiti corporations, poised for more growth in the years to come.

INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

Bombay films afflicted with dacoit mania

By Fathima Ahmed

DACOIT mania is back in films. The latest arrival is *Khooon Baha Ganga Mein*, a misnomer, which should have been called "Khooon Bahaya Ganga Ne." Blood fends are common ingredients for a so-called smashing, blood-curdling film. The vendetta theme has been exploited so often that it has lost its appeal. Filmmakers, unconcerned about such matters, indulge in feuding sagas with a vengeance: each filmmaker tries to outsmart the other by producing the bloodiest movie of the year.

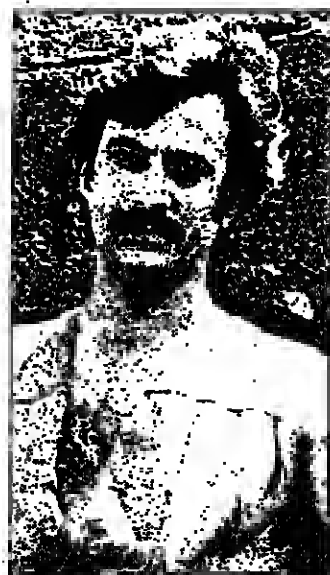
Scriptwriters seem to lift entire events from an earlier film, rearrange sequences that are invariably out of context, insert a few songs and dances, bring out the bunch of horsemen, add garbled dialogue, change a few lines and directors get down to the task of casting. This time, it is Amrita Singh's turn to play the role of an outlaw, all set to start the blood feud in *Khooon Baha Ganga Mein*.

The excuse for the bloody saga, invariably, is the death of one or both parents. Bindiya's parents are killed by the lustful landlord, who rapes the mother in front of Bindiya, who was about eight at the time. The trauma multiplies after Bindiya witnesses the death of a couple who give her shelter. The couple commit suicide after they fail to provide dowry for their only daughter. Bindiya, who is pursued by the police for being the sole witness of two murders, escapes to the hills, where she is rescued by Himalaya Khan (Suresh Oberoi). Himalaya is a kind-hearted outlaw. "I was named Himalaya. I'll call you Ganga." Thus, Ganga is born and is brought up among tough men.

Fifteen years later, Ganga's revenge saga begins. She goes on a killing spree. But there is a slight problem: romance between Bindiya and Raju, the lovers are separated in childhood and meet later on the opposite side of the fence as an



Amrita Singh



Suresh Oberoi

camerawork makes the film seem dated. It's difficult to take the superficial characters seriously. At one point, Ganga is all fire and fury. In the next sequence she melts in the arms of Raju. And as quickly, she changes colour.

Amrita Singh tries to define the character of Ganga, inspired by the notorious Phoolan Devi, who has been reduced to a caricature in this particular film. Due to persistent inconsistencies, it is hard for Amrita to do justice to a contrived character who is always out of line. The blue-eyed boy of Nari Hira films, Aditya Pancholi, makes his disastrous debut on the big screen. As Raju, Pancholi can only manage a few badly mouthed lines and a sloppy attempt at playing a policeman. Filmmakers are dishing out such stale fare that they may spell their own doom.

Khooon Baha Ganga Mein is a poor show but Zindagi Jeene Ke Liye (Life is for living) is so depressing that it may put you off living. Raakhoo and Suresh Oberoi, two talented performers are wasted in the poorly scripted movie.

It is about Prisoner No. 55 Satyen (Suresh Oberoi) who has murdered two people and is

now in hospital for an operation. Everyone in the ward treats him like an outcast except an eight-year old child.

The theme offered plenty of scope to develop a tender, loving relationship between the prisoner and the child. Instead, the scriptwriter misses the point, preferring to concentrate on songs and meaningless banter. The essence of the film, it seems, is that a killer must be forgiven if he has a justifiable reason for committing the crime. No. 55 killed his wife and her lover — a crime of passion. Zindagi ... suffers from poor direction, sloppy camerawork and dazed performers sleepwalking throughout the film. A poor quality print doesn't improve matters. And if you are brave enough to confront Zindagi, it may just stun you.

Another film which fails due to similar faults is *Shubh Chintak*, starring Arun ("Ram") Govil, Deepa ("Sita") Sahi and Parikshit Sahni. It is about marital harmony. The tenuous relationship between man and wife is made shaky by the introduction of the so-called dramatic plot. The perfectly happy couple play a practical joke that backfires. Viewers have the last laugh as the director explores "man's suspicious nature" and the woman's premarital affairs. The moral of the tale: if there's a problem in a marriage, seek help from the Shubh Chintak (marriage counsellor). If you want to do yourself an injustice, watch the movie.

The above films are by courtesy of Athar Video, Main St., Farwaniya. Tel: 4720900.

BBC HIGHLIGHTS

Why should this happen to me? It's not fair! is one of the earliest cries of a child and life doesn't seem to get any easier as we grow up. Keith Hindell talks to people whose lives have been radically changed by ill-fortune. This four-part series looks at how individuals cope with major upsets and how human resilience can be aided by faith. (March 13, 1915 hrs; rep. March 14, 1030 hrs, March 17, 0630 hrs; 19.15m)

Education today

John Turtle, who presents Education Today, charts a path through education and training, with practical advice, reports from schools, universities, polytechnics and professional bodies in Britain and overseas. There's also news of the latest research and books for teachers and trainers. (March 13, 1245 hrs; March 16, 1815 hrs; March 18, 0830 hrs; 19.15m; 227 MW)

The story of English: Regional identity. "Dynamic," "opportunity" and "cost-effective": all useful words if you want to get a job in management these days so make sure you weave them into your interview. David Crystal and Tom McArthur continue their survey of the English language by looking at the subtle ways in which we use it. (March 16, 2015 hrs; March 17, 1245 hrs; 212 MW; 16.59m)

Waha in the Salhia Complex is one of the convenient meeting places in town for downtown office workers and shoppers.

SPORTS

Sports Festival for Children

A sports festival for Bangladesh children will be held on April 8. For details contact 4840759; 4710206; 5716586. All Bangladesh children are welcome.

Kuwait Rally

The 1988 Kuwait International Rally will be held on March 17 and 18. The rally starts on Thursday (March 17) at 1 pm from the SAS Hotel carport, and the first night's action will be in the Jabra/Doha areas. Main Control will be at Entertainment City, and the cars can be seen there between 4.30 pm and 6 pm. The cars return to SAS at 10 pm, and the rally resumes at 9 am the next morning. Stages will be in the Maqwa and Sulabiya areas and the cars can be seen at Main Control from 12.30 pm. The rally finish is at the SAS Hotel at 5.15 pm.

Cricket Match

The BA Speedbird Trophy Cricket match between teams representing Great Britain and India will take place on March 15 at the KOC, Ahmadi, new ground. Play commences at 9.30 am. All are welcome.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News Via Satellite
- 3.30 Ibtal Al Ma'Laeb: cartoon serial
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.20 Ghadab Al Sahara: Arabic serial, starring Abdul Rahman Al Rish, Sahar Rami, Talhath Hamdi
- 5.30 Mama Anisa and Children
- 6.00 Cultural Film
- 6.45 News Summary
- 7.30 A special programme on Isr'a Wal Meraj, live broadcast from Grand Mosque, Kuwait
- 8.30 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Surag Al Simt: daily Arabic serial, featuring San Jamil, Hamdi Ghaith, Anwar Ismael, Mimi Jamal
- 11.30 Al Sharahiya: Arabic Feature Film. Starring: Farid Shawki, Afaf Shuaib, Mustafa Fahmi, Naema Al Saghir. An employee is blamed for theft in an office and faces many difficulties before the real thief is found.
- 11.45 News Summary
- 11.50 World News Via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran/Closedown



The Law and Harry MacGraw will be shown at 8.40 pm on KTV2.

KTV 2

- 2.30 Opening and recitation from the Holy Quran
- 2.45 Cartoon serial
- 3.10 Kuwait TV message on the 9th Gulf Football Championship
- 4.10 Live telecast of Oman Vs. Kuwait football match
- 6.05 Cartoon serial
- 6.10 Yogis Treasure Hunt: cartoons
- 6.30 The Animal Express: Tonight's episode examines the life of penguins in captivity.
- 7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world news, presented by KTV.
- 7.30 Don't Wait Up: comedy about a Brit-

- ish family.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 The Law and Harry MacGraw: "Angela's Secret." Eleanor is against accepting a criminal's case; MacGraw is convinced the man is innocent.
- 9.30 Horizon: tonight's episode examines the history of architecture from the time of the Egyptians to the present day.
- 10.30 Made-for-TV Movie: "Chase." Starring: Jennifer Daniels and Robert Woods.
- 11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

Urdu

- 1900 Opening
- 1910 Behtereen Qaul
- 1916 Programme Preview
- 1920 Songs
- 1935 News Report
- 1940 Islamiyat: Dar-e-Hazir
- 2000 News
- 2020 Songs
- 2040 Hamare Mehmaan
- 2100 Closedown

FM Services

- 0800 Easy Listening
- 0830 News
- 0840 Easy Listening
- 1000 Songs and Music
- 1300 Easy Listening
- 1330 News
- 1400 Classical Music
- 1600 Easy Listening
- 1700 Latin American Hour
- 1800 Pops
- 1900 Heiter Skelter
- 2000 Pops
- 2130 News

BBC World Services

- 0000 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newsworld
- 30 Religious Service
- 0100 News Summary followed by 7th Lloyd George Knew My Father — Part 2; 14th The Reluctant Debutante — Part 2; 28th The Kingfisher — Part 2
- 0450 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newsworld
- 30 Religious Service
- 0100 News Summary followed by 7th Lloyd George Knew My Father — Part 2; 14th The Reluctant Debutante — Part 2; 28th The Kingfisher — Part 2
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- 15 Radio Newsworld
- 30 Religious Service
- 0100 News Summary followed by 7th Lloyd George Knew My Father — Part 2; 14th The Reluctant Debutante — Part 2; 28th The Kingfisher — Part 2

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait
- Al Ajcel Pharmacy
- Adnan Abdul Aziz Bldg., Palestine St., Mubarakiah
- Al Ameen Pharmacy
- Behbehani Complex, Jaber
- Al Mubarak St.
- Hawalli and Nagra
- Al Zenah Pharmacy
- Bin Khalid St.
- Salhiya and Rumaitiyya
- Al Sima Pharmacy
- Baghdad St.
- Fahsheel and Ahmadi
- Al Imaan Pharmacy
- Makkah St., Fheel
- Jeeb Al Shiyyookh
- Al Nimran Pharmacy
- Opp. Secondary School
- Jahra
- Al Zahra Pharmacy
- New Souk

PRAYERS

- Fajr 4.39 am
- Zuhr 11.57
- Asr 3.22 pm
- Maghreb 5.56
- Isha 7.12

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus Closed
- Al Salhiya Arabic play
- Al Haura Tough Guys
- Starring: Kirk Douglas, Burt Lancaster
- Drive-In Shahab Fi Al Jahem (Arabic)
- Starring: Mamdouh Abdul Alim, Mirvat Ameen
- Al Firdous Maang Bharo Sajna (Hindi)
- Starring: Jeetendra, Rekha, Moushumi

- Fahsheel Open-Air Anhone (Hindi)
- Al Fahsheel Irupatham Nootandu (Malayalam)
- Al Jahra Scandalous
- Granada Tarzan Finds a Son
- Salaibikhat White Appache
- Al Jeeb Pumar Milan (Bengali)
- Ahmadi Drive-In Avataar (Hindi)

Wanted immediately
A good Salesman
Contact: Mubarak Talal Al-Jari Est., Ex-Bader Mulla Showroom Bldg., 1st Floor, Flat No. 8, Dabbous Street, Fahsheel, between 4 and 8 pm.

Wanted immediately
A lady secretary
An office boy
Dasman Complex — Shorq Mezzanine Floor Office No. 32 Time 4 to 8 pm.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery

Egyptian artist Magdi Kenawy is showing his latest collection of lithographs and prints at the gallery in Salhiya Complex. The exhibition is open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8 pm, until March 31.

THEATRE

Kuwait Little Theatre

KLT will perform the Vicar of Wakefield, an amusing tale by Oliver Goldsmith. Gala opening on March 14 at 7.30 pm. Repeat performances on March 15, 16 and 17 at 8.15 pm. For reservations ring 3983724.

CINEMA

British Council

Little Lord Fauntleroy is the title of this month's film for children. It is a heart-warming story of eight year old Ceddie, whose happy life with his widowed American mother is transformed when he becomes Little Lord Fauntleroy. It will be shown on March 16, 6 pm and March 17, 10.30 am.

This month's feature film for adults is entitled *The Emerald Forest*. The production by John Boorman is the mystical

story of a young white boy spirited away by a tribe and then initiated into manhood and full membership. Elements of magic, fantasy, myth and anthropological fact are introduced in this story. This film will be shown at 6.30 pm on March 19 and 20.

Admission free but it is advisable to make reservations. Tel: 2515512.

EDUCATION

Open-Evening

There will be an open evening on March 15, 5-8 pm, at the British Council in Mansouriya for anyone interested in studying Business Administration, Management and Finance in Britain. A wide range of information will be on display with details of courses to suit both students and professionals. (Note: if either date is declared a public holiday then its alternative date will be on March 16). For details phone 2515512.

MUSIC

Rock 'n' Romance

Kuwait Players present Rock 'n' Romance, a rock show with a romantic touch, directed by June Stevenson and Phil Thomas, featuring music by Eric Clapton, Dire Straits, Elton John, Chopin and others. It will be held at the Regency Palace Hotel at 8 pm on March 20, 21, 22, 23 and at 3 pm and 8

pm on March 24. For details call 5624175, after 2 pm, or 5745838.

Piano Concert

Well-known pianist Ramzi Yassa will give a recital on Tuesday, March 15, at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel, Ballroom A. Yassa's repertoire ranges from Bach to Berg and includes works by Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Ravel and Mozart.

SOCIAL

Filipino Get-together

The next "Kumustahan" — get-together — will be held on Saturday, March 19, 5 to 8 pm, at the Church Hall. Free snacks will be served. Admission free. All Filipinos are welcome.

Kuwait Irish Society

St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel. If interested contact — 5621701/5622701, 8 am to 2 pm or 5624175 after 2 pm.

Contact

The next meeting of the ladies information group, Contact, will be held on Saturday, March 19, at 10 am at the SAS Hotel. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome. For details phone 3949807; 4874513; 5383999.

Daniella

The '88 Revue will be performed at the Gazelle Club on March 17 at 7.30 pm. It is the major family event of the year.

Don't leave children at home. For reservations contact Connie — 3947693; Annette — 3903480 before March 15.

Luncheon Party

Friends of Great Ormond Street Hospital Lunch will be held on March 17, 1.30 pm, at Messiah Beach Hotel. For reservations contact 4831339; 5636675.

HOTELS

At the Sheraton

Dine in the Hunt Room with live music by the Trio Paradise. For lunch a la carte is featured. Tarhouche on the Roof features Lebanese cuisine in Al Hamba night club on Sunday evenings.

At the Hilton

Fallaka on the 19th floor offers a special menu featuring a wide range of chef's recommendations ranging from appetisers to desserts. Open for lunch and dinner.

At the SAS

The Peacock Room offers Chinese dining from Peking to Szechuan daily for lunch and dinner, except Saturdays. Oriental and Western cuisine offered daily for lunch at the Al Boom Restaurant.

At the Meridien

La Brasserie offers extensive buffet and a la carte service; open for lunch and dinner. Fresh lobster promotion continues in the Versailles Restaurant, until March 17. Al

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

BAD laws are the worst sort of tyranny — Edmund Burke, Irish-born statesman (1729-1797).

McFarlane pleads guilty

A mastermind of disastrous policy

By David Negy

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): Robert McFarlane emerged from the Iran-Contra scandal as an earnest man of mournful demeanour who launched a disastrous foreign policy and suffered suicidal remorse when it went wrong.

McFarlane, who pleaded guilty on Friday to four counts of misleading Congress in a deal with the Iran-Contra special prosecutor, was the White House National Security adviser who first floated the idea of selling arms to Iran.

That was in June 1985. A year-and-a-half later on Feb 9, 1987, with the cover stripped off the arms-sale operation and President Reagan sinking into the worst scandal of his career, McFarlane gulped an overdose of tranquilisers.

Saved by emergency hospital treatment, he later said he had attempted suicide in a moment of despair because he felt he had brought disgrace upon a president he revered.

"I thought the world would be a better place without me," McFarlane told one interviewer.

That bleak shrouding of guilt seemed in character for "bud" McFarlane, 50, a taciturn former Marine officer and foreign policy specialist who served as Reagan's chief National Security adviser from 1983 to 1985.

He became a familiar, pouty-eyed face to the public last May as one of the first and longest-running witnesses at Congress's televised hearings into the sale of US arms to Iran and the shunting of profits to Nicaragua's Contra rebels.

In a sleepy baritone drawl, he defended his arms-sale concept as an effort to impress "moderates" in Tehran after years of US-Iranian hostilities, insisted Reagan approved the sales verbally before he legalised them by formal order and claimed the president specifically authorised a plan to pay \$2 million ransom for US hostages in Lebanon.

Reagan denied any illegal action in the affair and any knowledge of a hostage ransom attempt.

McFarlane also admitted he knew of US efforts to drum up private and foreign-government financing for the Contras at a time when Congress had banned official US aid.

He said he joined other White House aides in covering up Iran-Contra operations by using "some tortured language" to mislead Congress in testimony and helping to doctor an official

chronology of arms-sale decisions.

Some members of Congress suggested McFarlane was playing a self-serving martyr's role and couching his admissions of guilt in the broadest general terms.

But when Senator Paul Sarbanes asked him who he had been trying to protect in the cover-up efforts, he replied softly:

"Very likely myself, my reputation, my own record..."

In the end, McFarlane's role in the affair was obscured by those of the more glamorous Marine Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, a National Security Council (NSC) aide, and Admiral John Poindexter, who succeeded McFarlane as NSC boss and presided over the most active phases of the Iran and Contra operations.

Target

Those two are said to be the principal targets of the special prosecutor with whom McFarlane is now cooperating.

Robert Carl McFarlane was born on July 12, 1937, in Washington. His father was a Democratic Congressman from Texas.

He graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1959 and took a masters degree in strategic studies at the Institut Des Hautes Etudes in Geneva, Switzerland.

After serving in Vietnam, he entered the foreign policy establishment on the staff of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Later, after leaving the Marine Corps, he became deputy to National Security adviser William Clark in 1982.

The Iran arms-sale scandal had its genesis in August 1984 when McFarlane asked government agencies to reassess policy toward Iran. Relations had been severed and an arms embargo imposed as a result of the 1979-81 hostage crisis when 52 Americans were held in Tehran.

In June, 1985, McFarlane put teeth in his plan by circulating a confidential proposal to sell arms to Iran.

Although Secretary of State George Shultz branded the idea "perverse" and then Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger called it "absurd," McFarlane and North prevailed with Reagan.

According to Congress and a presidential inquiry panel, the operation fast degenerated into an effort to barter arms for Americans held hostage by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

McFarlane retained an active role in the Iran gambit even after he resigned his White House post in December, 1985.

Goria resigns for the third time

Dynamic image has crumbled

By Alan Baldwin

ROME, (Reuters): Giovanni Goria, who resigned on Friday for the third time in less than eight months, took office as Italy's youngest prime minister since World War II but his fresh, dynamic image quickly crumbled.

Italy's President Cossiga resurrected Goria's government again last month on the tacit understanding that Goria would step down immediately after steering through parliament the 1988 budget, delayed more than two months by coalition squabbling.

It was approved on Thursday, and Goria had been widely expected to resign next week.

But government ministers said the reason for Goria's early resignation was a tough statement from his socialist coalition partners attacking the prime minister's decision to resume construction of a nuclear power station north of Rome.

Opposition parties and the socialists said the decision went beyond Goria's mandate.

Last July, Italy's media welcomed the unassuming Christian Democrat in a blaze of enthusiasm, dubbing him "Goria superstar".

But within a month, his smile was equated with that of a "bearded Dracula." As the weeks passed, his premature fall became a foregone conclusion and the government looked more and more accident-prone.

Cool, dark and with a northern background which fitted well with the modern, affluent self-image which Italy has recently assumed, he was the surprise choice to form the country's 47th post-war government last July.

Goria swiftly put together a coalition of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals.

A far cry from the wily and mostly elderly politicians who have dominated post-war Italy, Goria was seen by many parliamentarians as a naive technocrat and a "fall-guy" who lacked the experience to survive in Italy's ruthless politics.

He staked his personal political reputation on trying to prove the pundits wrong.

Goria, who studied economics, entered parliament in 1976 and has described himself as "an accountant turned politician."

He was appointed treasury minister in 1982 by then Premier Amintore Fanfani and served in four successive governments during a revival in which inflation plunged from 16 per cent when he took over to just over four per cent in July 1987.

Goria, born on June 30, 1943, in Asti, northwest Italy, is regarded within the Christian Democrat Party, Italy's biggest political group with 34 per cent of votes, as a protégé of leader Ciriaco de Mita.

He is married with two children.

Who controls America's Middle East policy?

Israeli lobby behind closure of PLO mission

By Raphael Calls

WASHINGTON, (Kuna): Even US officials admit that the legislation passed by the US Congress and enacted by the Justice Department on Friday to close the PLO observer mission at the United Nations, sets a dangerous precedent and constitutes a damaging intrusion into the United Nations, conduct of its affairs and threatens the integrity and independence of the world body.

It is ironic that US Secretary of State George Shultz, reacting to the decision announced by the Justice Department, commented: "This is one of the dumbest things that Congress has done lately."

What Shultz is not saying publicly, however, is that he has been stabbed in the back by the pro-Israeli lobby in Washington, with whom he had reached a so-called "gentleman's agreement" at the peak of the legislative battle on Capitol Hill last fall when Congress was debating the question of closing PLO offices in the US.

Close

According to the agreement reached between Shultz and Jewish leaders at a close door meeting at the time, the State Department agreed to move to close the Palestine Information Office (PIO) in Washington on condition that the pro-Israeli lobby, working through their supporters in Congress, abandoned their effort to close the PLO observer mission at the United Nations because of the complications—legal and political—that might arise as a result of such action.

Shultz thought he had an agreement, but as it turned out, he carried out his part of the bargain, closed the PIO office, and expected the issue to fade away. Instead, Israel's friends in Congress forgot about their part of the deal and succeeded in passing a bill calling for the closure of the observer mission at the United Nations.

As it is now, the controversy has grown into a battle between the United States and the United Nations as a whole. In a way, that serves the interest of the PLO, which has capitalised on the fact that 143 countries in the General Assembly have voted in favour of two resolutions which have embarrassed the US.

But what is being missed in the current debate is the less publicised fact as to who, in fact, controls and directs US foreign policy when it comes to the Middle East.

Definitely not the administration, which in this particular case sought to defeat the legislation but failed. As it turns out, it was not even the Congress which initiated the legislation. It was simply an instrument used by the real force that controls America's Middle East policy—the Israeli lobby.

A study of the legislative history of the so-called "Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987" which was used to close the PLO offices in the United States reveals that it did not originate in Congress. It emerged at the April 1987 annual convention of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee, better known as Aipac, which is the lobbying arm of Israel in the United States.

In the final communiqué that was adopted at that convention—and which has since become a major ingredient of US foreign policy towards the Middle East, Aipac stated:

"The PLO or its representatives have no place at the negotiation table. Aipac opposes pre-negotiations between the US and Arab parties which are by the PLO's own admission designed to achieve recognition of the PLO by the US."

"United States diplomacy should know how to circumvent the PLO, not seek ways to bring the PLO into negotiations through the back door," the statement emphasised.

Negotiations

Aipac outlined the following principles that, it said, must be upheld by the US in its pursuit of peace:

● "There must be direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours leading to peace treaties."

● "The US role should be that of facilitator of direct negotiations rather than participant in the negotiations."

● "The PLO should not be involved in negotiations. Instead, the US should encourage the promotion of alternative and constructive Palestinian representatives."

● "An independent Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria and Gaza is unacceptable."

● "An international conference is an inappropriate forum for negotiations."

● "Options for legal action against the PLO include closing the PLO office in Washington and New York, denying PLO access to the UN in New York, cutting funding for PLO activities at the United Nations, and convening a grand jury investigation into PLO activities."

Then Aipac called for strong



George Shultz

action against PLO activities in this country and around the globe.

A comparison of the bill that was passed into law by Congress on the PLO known as 1203 and entitled "Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987" uses the exact wordings of the final communiqué adopted by Aipac.

Sponsors

It is not surprising, during an election year, that among the dozens of sponsors of the bill there were three presidential candidates—Senator Robert Dole, Paul Simon, and Jack Kemp. Their hope was obviously to secure the support, approval, and membership contribution of Aipac to their campaigns.

Not a single sponsor hesitated for a moment to heed any argument, even from the administration, that a single sponsor wanted to examine the legal as well as the diplomatic issues involved. Not one sought to investigate possible consequences or the precedents that the bill might establish.

It is significant that in every foreign policy issue, Congress is strongly influenced by what the media says. Except when it comes to Israel. Not one major American paper supported the Congressional move.

Trap

Editorials that have been appearing in the major American newspapers, such as the Washington Post, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Christian Science Monitor, Boston Globe, and many others all came out in opposition to the move and many papers even questioned publicly the "excessive influence" that this Israeli official lobby exercises in the conduct of US foreign policy towards the Middle East.

Furthermore, as the Ambassador of the Arab League to the United Nations, Clovis Mak-

soud, so rightfully pointed out in a speech at the United Nations General Assembly recently, "the US administration fell into the trap" of the Israeli lobby.

He noted that Arab ambassadors to Washington had been told by top State Department officials that the decision to close the PLO office in Washington was made "in order to take the wind out of the sail" and protect the PLO observer mission to the UN. The executive branch of government "thought" by sacrificing the PIO, it would salvage its treaty obligations to the UN.

But as it has turned out, the administration has once again underestimated the hold of Aipac on a majority of the members of Congress.

It is ironic that there was still a way out of the crisis for the administration, but it is obvious now that it was not ready to pursue it. The President of the US has the prerogative, under the US constitution, to exclude the implementation of this law where it violates the US treaty obligation—as in this particular case. But as Makoud has so well described it, "the legal authority is not accompanied by a corresponding political will."

This latest controversy, which

is bound to have major repercussions in the future on US policies and interests in the Arab world, has highlighted a number of facts which cannot be ignored.

First, despite the claims coming out of Tel Aviv and its lobby on Capitol Hill, Israel—as America's strongest ally—does not necessarily serve the interests of the US but has its own interests at heart as a priority.

In this latest controversy, it was in the interest of the US not to open a battle with the whole international community at the United Nations. The lobby has pushed the US into an embarrassing position, even with its own Western allies. The so-called "strategic ally" of the US has proved, in fact, it is more of a liability than an asset to US interests.

Second, the Arabs were justified all along in believing that US policies towards the Middle East are drawn and decided upon not by the administration in power, but by Israel—working through its lobbying arm, Aipac, and through the US Congress.

Third, the US continues to give mixed signals to the Arabs, choosing, on the one hand, to launch a peace initiative while on the other denying representation to the people directly concerned

—the Palestinians. As one Arab diplomat put it, "they take in one hand what they give in the other."

Fourth, as Shultz learned the hard way, there is no "gentleman's agreement" that will be respected by the Israeli lobby in the US when it comes to Israeli, and not American, interests.

Fifth, and perhaps most significantly, US respect for international laws and treaties are very much arbitrary and can be respected or ignored depending on the whims of the US Congress and the powers that succeed in manipulating it. This obviously sets a precedent for other countries to do exactly the same when it is also in their interest, making a sham of international treaties.

And, sixth, the latest controversy has confirmed what is generally accepted about US foreign policy all over the world: its shortsightedness.

By winning the current legislative battle in the US, the administration and the Congress have, in fact, ensured that the US will lose out on the war eventually. The United States has, in fact, shackled its own hands and denied itself the role of playing a mediator in the Arab-Israeli conflict. That definitely teaches a few lessons to the rest of the world.

Armenian demonstrations in Soviet Union

By Mary Ellen Bortin

MOSCOW, (Reuters): Hundreds of thousands of Armenians are putting Kremlin slogans for greater democracy to the test in a burgeoning grass-roots movement formed to fight for control of a small parcel of Soviet territory.

Sergei Grigoryants, a Moscow dissident who spent several days in the Armenian capital of Yerevan this week, said a "central organising committee" was coordinating actions of some 1,200 representatives in local factories and neighbourhoods.

Grigoryants told reporters 700,000 Armenians had turned out for a funeral march called by the committee last Tuesday, marked in the Soviet Union as International Women's Day, a national holiday.

"This committee is thoroughly distressing to the authorities," he said, adding that the groundswell of popular sentiment in Armenia over the past three weeks had taken Kremlin leaders by surprise.

The committee took shape in late February as up to one million people demonstrated for several days in Yerevan to

Slogans for greater democracy put to test

demand the reunification with Armenia of a region inside the neighbouring Transcaucasian republic of Azerbaijan.

The region, Nagorno-Karabakh, has been administered by Azerbaijan since 1923 although ethnic Armenians comprise 75 per cent of its population.

The trouble began last month when Nagorno-Karabakh's parliament voted in favour of reunification with Armenia.

The demonstrations in support of Armenians living in the enclave were followed by disorders in a number of Azerbaijani areas, according to reports reaching Moscow.

By far the worst violence occurred in the Caspian Sea town of Sumgait, where according to the Kremlin 32 people died in ethnic rioting on Feb 28. But reports from Armenia suggest the bloodshed was worse than authorities have admitted.

A member of Grigoryants' independent "glasnost" publish-

ing collective who also witnessed Tuesday's funeral march in Yerevan said participants brandished slogans reading: "The pogrom in Sumgait is one of the disgraces of the 20th century."

The man, Andrei Shilkov, said he heard during a visit to Sumgait this week that Armenians were indiscriminately killed in a "bloodbath" believed to have been instigated by Azerbaijanis enraged over the death of two Azerbaijani youths.

His account could not be independently verified.

But Grigoryants brought back documentary evidence that passions began mounting in outlying areas of Armenia even before the Sumgait disturbances.

Meeting reporters on Friday, he displayed a photograph of a mass gathering in the Armenian town of Kirovakan, north of Yerevan, saying crowds had demonstrated there on Feb 25 and 26 over the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

Post-election situation in Bangladesh

Sense of despair prevails

By Derek Brown

DHAKA: A deep note of despair has entered political conversation in Bangladesh since the rigged general election held on March 3.

"The constitutional option is exhausted," people say. "Now there will be bloodshed."

These are not hardened revolutionaries. They share the two national characteristics of political passion and abhorrence of violence. They simply do not know any more how the change they crave can be achieved peacefully.

One of the more obvious symptoms of the collective depression is the extreme reluctance of anyone, from rickshawwallah to senior public servant, to be identified in print. What follows is, therefore, a synthesis of views from politicians, civil servants, businessmen, and others.

The government's line is out included, having been rendered irrelevant by the almost total abstention rate in the polls.

What is important, however, is that response of President Hosain Mohammad Ershad, whose Jatiya Party has coolly annexed 238 of the 279 parliamentary seats so far declared.

According to one well connected analyst, there are basically four options open to the ex-general, who seized power almost exactly six years ago.

Options

One is to declare martial law, sack himself as President, and resume his pre-1986 title as Chief Martial Law Administrator.

Alternatively, he could make way—or be forced to make way—for another CMLA from the Army's general staff.

If President Ershad feels more adventurous, or more secure, he may consider a more subtle means of defusing the political crisis. That would involve using his giant parliamentary majority to change the constitution, turning back from a presidential to a parliamentary system.

One way, which he has considered last year, would be to appoint a new head of state to supervise free and fair elections, in which "Prime Minister" Ershad, popular saviour of the



President Ershad

nation, would lead his innovative party.

That is the third option. The fourth and more plausible one is a variation: the same constitutional change, but without Ershad.

All that is a neat enough analysis of the choices facing the President. But, given the turbulent history of the nation, the final choice may not be his. At least two more overlapping possibilities exist: Army intervention and popular revolt.

Conventional wisdom in the capital is that the first is unlikely, but cannot be ruled out. The reluctance of the Army to get involved was visible in the March 3 election.

Nine thousand troops had been detailed to stand by in case of trouble. But on the day there was no visible military presence. Apparently the Army refused flatly to do more than be available for emergencies—and even then, they said, they would come on the streets only at the written request of local administrators, and under their own commanders.

That attitude reflected a truth of central importance: the Army has never been used to prop up governments, only to bring them down.

Also, senior officers have been handsomely featherbedded during the Ershad regime, with plots of offland and plum retirement jobs.

Even the more lowly ranks have a range of perks.

1977 to 1981, under Ziaur Rahman. In his time, more than 1,000 officers and other ranks are said to have been summarily executed.

The Army has been further depoliticised by weeding out the former freedom fighters of 1971, and promoting the so-called repatriates—the soldiers who, like Ershad himself, were interned in West Pakistan during the liberation war.

There has also been clever manipulation of senior appointments: the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Atiqur Rahman, is an artillery man, and the commander of the Dhaka Division, Major-General Nuruddin Ahmed, belongs to the Corps of Engineers. Coups are traditionally led by infantry generals, like Ershad.

But no Bangladesh leader can be 100 per cent certain of an Army which has twice taken over the 17-year-old country (in 1975 and 1982).

The same officers are also close to the sepoys, whose families for the most part live in their home villages rather than the cantonments. With almost 10 per cent of the Army on leave at any given moment, there is a high probability of the current unrest infecting the troops, making it impossible to deploy them to keep order.

Nuisance

But that is not an immediate prospect. Even after four months of almost continuous agitation, there is no sign of the opposition developing a truly militant mass movement.

Indeed, for the great majority of people, the protests have become a nuisance to which they have adapted, for example by making up income lost to strikes by working on Fridays.

This trend is of critical importance to the opposition leaders in the wake of the election. Most observers believe that the four principal movements in the opposition—Awami League, Bangladesh Nationalist Party, the left parties, and the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami—must change tack, or risk being outmanoeuvred by President Ershad.

(Courtesy the Guardian.)

By Joseph C. Harach

WASHINGTON: By the time Richard Allen became Ronald Reagan's first national security adviser in 1981, he had come to accept that there had been a split between China and the USSR.

But earlier, in 1969, when he was on the staff of Henry Kissinger at the National Security Council offices at the Nixon White House, he believed that the "split" was a charade to deceive the West. Like many other experts on the conservative side of the foreign policy community in Washington, he clung long to the doctrine of the seamless cloak of communism.

When did the split occur? It is important to know because the distance between the exact date of the split and the time of Richard Nixon's trip to China in 1972 tells us how long it can take America's foreign policy to recognise and adjust to major changes in the power structure of the world. And that is relevant to the current argument about whether Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika is real or illusion.

Well before the Allen conversion most Western experts on the Soviet Union had recognised midsummer of 1960 as a crucial time in the Sino-Soviet relationship. During July and August of that year, Soviet technicians by the trainload, literally, departed from China: they went home, taking with them such things as the blueprints for factories and dams.

It is estimated that it took China from five to ten years to recover from the damage done by that exodus of Soviet technicians.

But when and why did the split start?

Memoirs

Fascinating new light on this matter is shed in the memoirs of Soviet President Andrei Gromyko, which are soon to be published in the USSR. The New York Times obtained an advance text. A resume of the highlights are in its issue of Feb 22.

According to this version of the story, the serious differences between Moscow and Peking really began in 1958. During the previous year the Soviets had apparently promised to give the Chinese the technology and materials for the production of their own Chinese nuclear weapons. But there was no

Taking a long time to adjust to changes

delivery on the promise.

During 1958, tension was building between the United States and China. The US had helped the Nationalist Chinese on Taiwan to fortify two Chinese offshore islands, Matsu and Quemoy. There was much talk of an attempt by the Nationalists to reinvade the mainland using Quemoy and Matsu as a staging area. The US was providing naval support for the garrisons on the two islands. The mainland Chinese began shelling the ports on the two islands.

Landing

Did the US ever think seriously of an attempted invasion by a combination of US and Nationalist troops? Staff work was done on the possibility. President Eisenhower actually sent units of the US Pacific fleet toward the Chinese coast, but not to cover an invasion. He sent them to the Taichen Islands to withdraw Chinese Nationalists from those islands. When the affair was over, the Chinese Nationalists near mainland China were the garrisons on Matsu and Quemoy. They are still there.

According to Gromyko, it was

during that period when there was much expectation of an American landing in China, that the Chinese asked for a Soviet nuclear bomb. Mao Tse-tung allegedly suggested that his troops would fall back before the invading forces, draw them deep into China, then hit them with the Soviet bomb.

The important thing is not that Mao allegedly intended to have the bomb used against Americans, but that the Soviets said a firm no to the Chinese plan. They never provided the bomb, the promised technology, or the materials. The Chinese felt cheated by their supposed communist allies. Mao shortly after launched his "Great Leap Forward" which was intended to modernise China without Russian help.

So the split occurred in 1958 over the issue of nuclear weapons which Moscow refused to provide. But it was not until 1972, when first Kissinger, then Richard Nixon, went to China, that US overture policy was based on the fact of the split.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

TODAY IN HISTORY

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IN FOC
The world

AN unidentified man stands near the wreckage of a Russian TU-154 airliner which was blown up by hijackers on a flight from Irkutsk to Leningrad last Tuesday. Aeroflot air hostess Tamara Zharkaya (below) was killed by the hijackers, moments before troops stormed the plane. (Reuter wirephoto)



FRENCH film director Louis Malle (right) poses with his wife, American actress Candice Bergen, after receiving seven Cesars, the French equivalent of Hollywood's Academy Awards. Malle's 'Au revoir les enfants' won awards for best film, best direction, and best original screenplay, as well as winning top honours in decoration, editing, photography and sound. The film has been nominated for an American Oscar as best foreign film. (Reuter wirephoto)



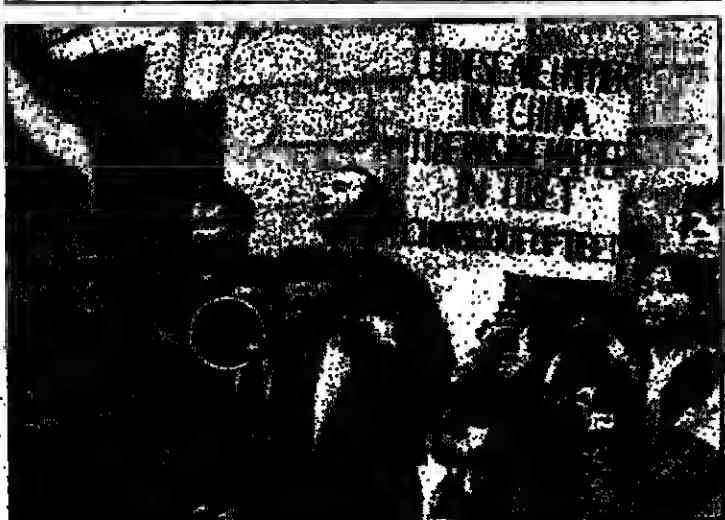
GREEK Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu (right) welcomes new Greek Cypriot President George Vassiliou upon his arrival at Athens International Airport yesterday. Vassiliou arrived for a five day official visit, making his foreign policy debut. (Reuter wirephoto)



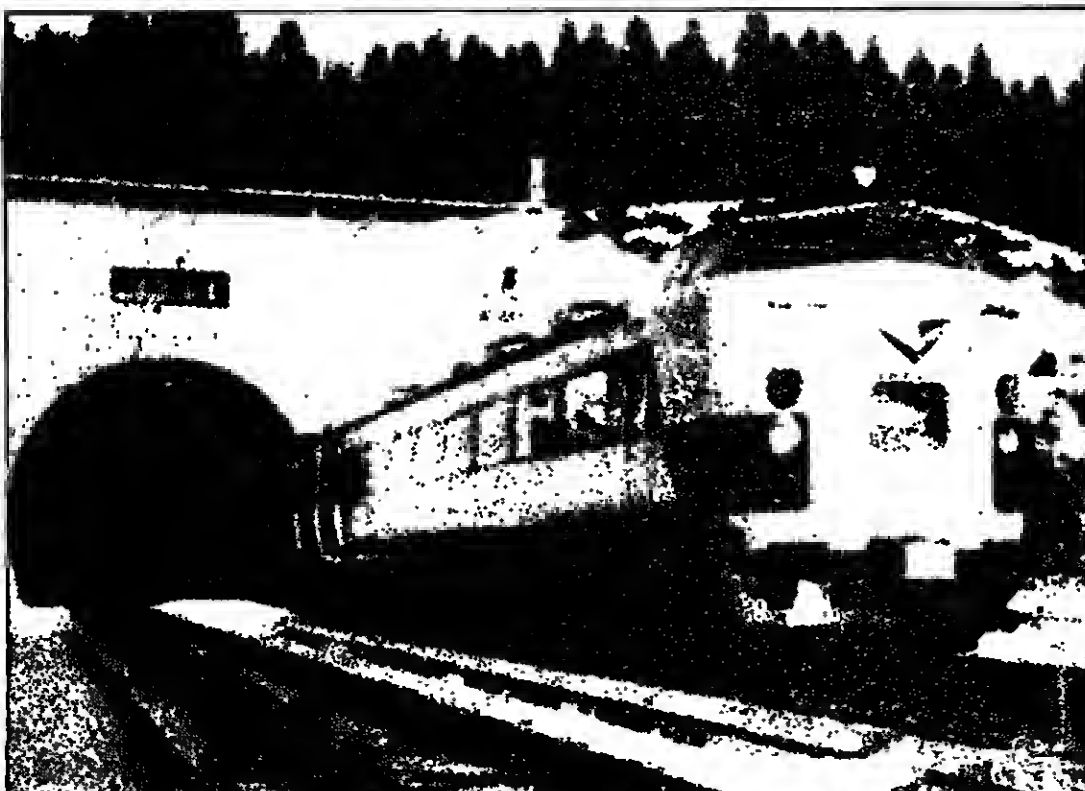
WEST GERMAN First Division soccer club FC Hamburg played the first match with advertisement for the British condom maker 'London' vs. Hamburger SV in Hamburg on Saturday. The club have won the latest round in a legal battle to boost their fortunes with condom advertisement. (Reuter wirephoto)



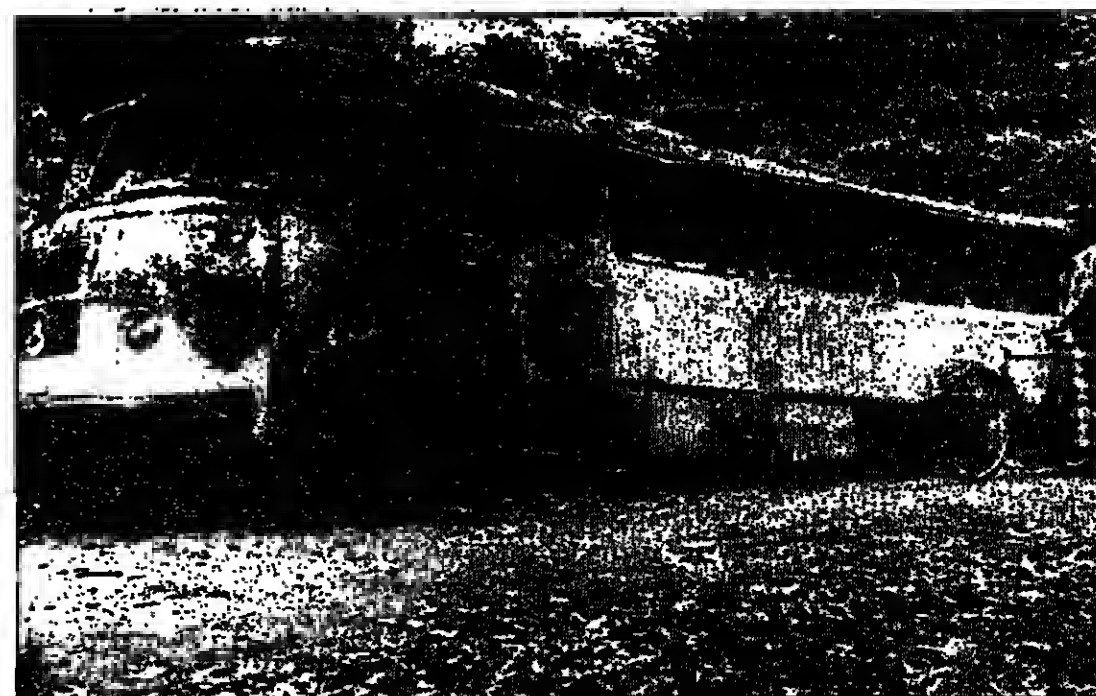
THOUSANDS of Bangladeshi Muslims demonstrated in Dhaka yesterday demanding their country be made an Islamic republic, and protesting against police attack on a similar march a year ago. (Reuter wirephoto)



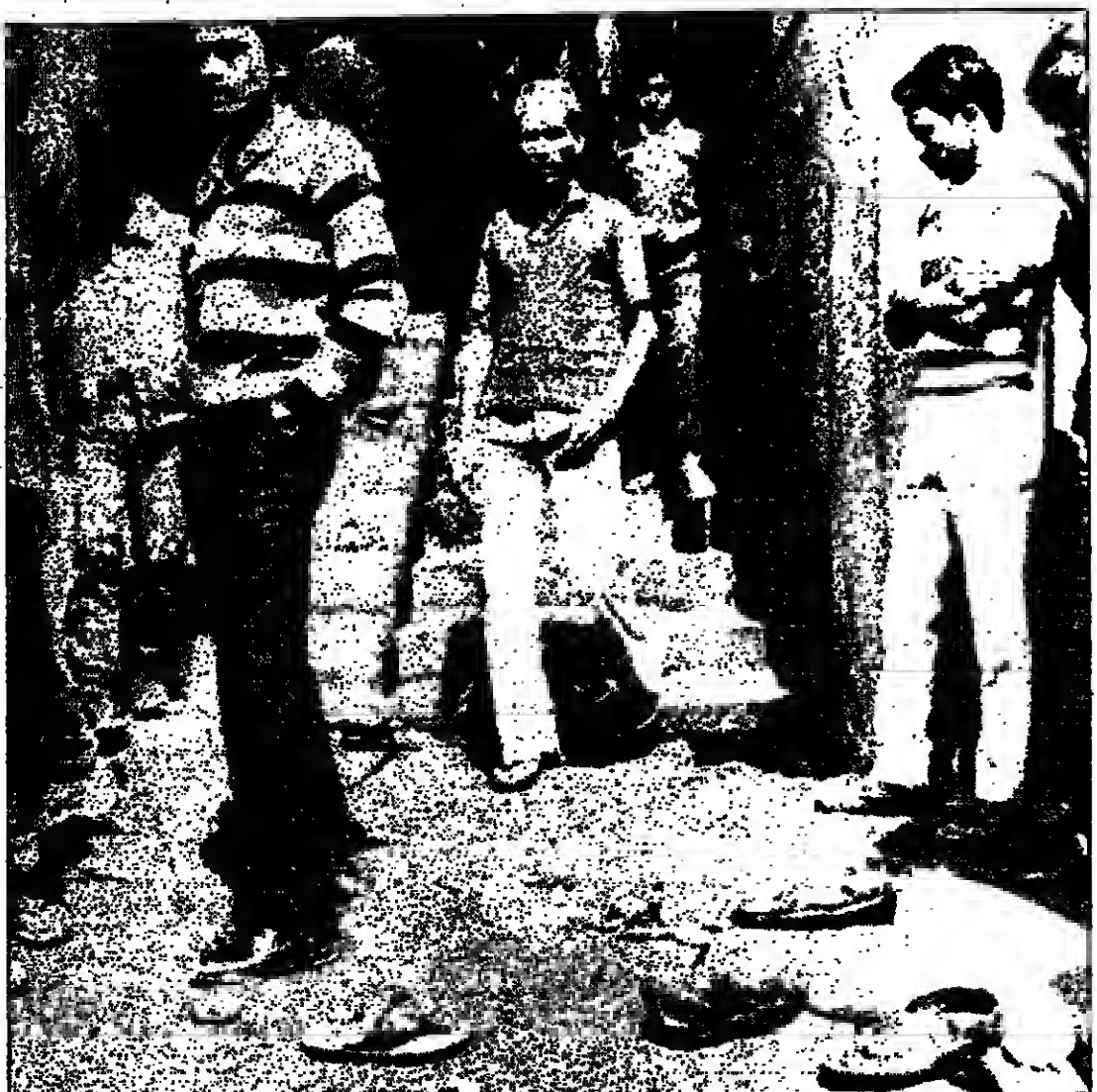
TIBETANS hold a peaceful demonstration outside the Chinese embassy in London on Saturday to mark the 1959 riots to end Chinese occupation of their country. The protest coincided with an official visit to Britain by Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian. (Reuter wirephoto)



THE first train from northern Hokkaido Island emerges out of the world's longest undersea Seikan tunnel at Aomori on the Japanese Island Honshu, as the tunnel opened to rail traffic yesterday after a quarter-century of construction. (Reuter wirephoto)



THE badly burnt passenger bus left on the road in this north-central district of Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka, a day after it was ambushed by gunmen. At least 17 people were killed and most of them burned when the bus was set on fire. The picture was taken on Saturday. (Reuter wirephoto)



SHOES left behind by thousands of soccer fans caught in a stampede at Nepal's main soccer stadium lay in the mud today as onlookers gather outside the gate where 95 people were killed and hundreds injured after the crowd panicked during a hailstorm and were caught against locked gates on Saturday in the tiny Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal. (Reuter wirephoto)



A PALESTINIAN woman empties a bucket of stones to be used by other Palestinians during a stone-throwing demonstration in the West Bank. The Israeli Army used teargas and rubber bullets to disperse the demonstrators. (Reuter wirephoto)



A PALESTINIAN youth from Yasser Arafat's Al Fatah group stands near a destroyed building in Sidon on Saturday. Israel launched an air raid on Palestinian targets east of this southern port city as well, and an estimated 10 commandos were wounded in the attacks. (Reuter wirephoto)

PEOPLE

'Sadat was my only worry, now I have no fears'

Life after Anwar: Jehan Sadat

Mrs Jehan Sadat, widow of the slain Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, speaks candidly about the assassination, her former role as first lady and why she now lives in the United States.

Q. Is there anything you wish you'd said or done before Sadat's death?

A. Every time he went out I told him to wear a bulletproof vest but he never listened. This time I didn't see him before he left for the parade. But nothing that I could have said or done could have prevented what was meant to be. I try not to be bitter but there are times when it's hard.

Q. What did you feel at the moment Sadat was shot?

A. I immediately tried to run to him, but a security guard restrained me. I had bruises on my arms for two weeks after-

and still they say, "Look at her — she lives in a castle in America."

Q. If you had behaved publicly in a more conservative manner would Sadat have been more popular?

A. No, I was conservative. I always respected my country's traditions and my religion. I know that sometimes women go too far, but it's only then that people listen. People don't take easily to change and I knew I had to learn to take criticism if I was to change anything.

Q. Has living in America changed you?

A. There is no place in the

'I did not have to leave Egypt — it is my right to be there if I want to. No one can stop me.'

wards. I prayed that the bullet had missed, that the blood I could see wasn't his. I am not hysterical by nature, but there were moments when I couldn't control myself. When I finally heard he was dead, I cried and cried. However, controlled I had to be because of my position, as a human being there were times when I couldn't help it.

Q. Shortly after your husband's death, critics said you had been a "mediator" in affairs of state. How did that feel?

A. It was and still is very hurtful. But I've never walked away from a fight. I knew right at the start that if I started answering those charges I'd never be able to stop. I can accept someone else's argument when it's objective, but their criticism was always very cheap and I can neither respect nor understand that. Even now I live in a simple house which anyone can see

world that can change me. My heart and my feelings are always in Egypt. I still pray five times a day and fast during Ramadan. [Jehan goes for 30 days without food or water from dawn until dusk] although the daylight lasts longer here, which makes it more difficult.

Q. How did you ever begin to come to terms with your husband's death?

A. After 32 years of a happy, successful marriage it's so hard to let go. We were like two halves, completing a whole. But you have to accept that everything comes to an end. I continue to live my life as if he can see what I'm doing and approves. He'll be happier if he sees me working instead of crying and doing nothing. I have never asked for any favours. I am making my way alone and with dignity. I am very proud as an Egyptian woman to do this.



Mr and Mrs Anwar Sadat in happier days, at the wedding of their son.

Q. Elizabeth Taylor called you the most beautiful woman in the world. Do your looks affect your work and life?

A. I never forget that I am a woman, and although I do my own hair and make-up, I spend very little time on myself. I don't think looks are that important, it is a woman's behaviour and attitude which count. For me, my marriage and now my work are more important.

Q. The Holy Quran and its teachings are essential to your life. What is your favourite part?

A. "There is no God but God." It is the essence of our belief. Whatever your religion, if you have faith you can find strength. It elevates you above the difficulties of life. But I think that only to feel and think is not enough, you have to do to feel that God is with you.

Q. What do you miss most about life in Egypt? Would you ever go back for good?

A. I miss everything, even something small like the sand. But I am always going backwards and forwards. Maybe in a few years I will go back permanently. Being here in the States is a break from all those memories and a challenge that makes me feel worthwhile and alive.

Q. You criticised America for bombing Libya and for support-

ing Israel in the October war. Why then, did you settle in the US?

A. I have spoken against Khaddafi too. I love the people here but I am against the bombing of innocent civilians. I saw my husband killed in front of

Each year they say I will marry this one or that one, but I'm still married and I still love Anwar.

me. I cannot be other than a woman of peace. But even if you have different opinions you should try to understand the other side. I did not have to leave Egypt — it is my right to be there if I want to. No one can stop me.

Q. Your life has been threatened and you have a constant bodyguard. How does this affect you?

A. I hate it. It's like being in prison, you are never free and that's so hard to live with. In South Carolina my classrooms had to be searched for bombs, before I was even free to start teaching.

Q. Haven't you let down the women of Egypt by giving up your leading role in their struggle for equality?

A. No. I'm still involved whenever I'm there, usually for half the year. I don't feel that I

am away at all. But really my role was finished after Sadat passed away. Through respect for the new first lady I can't be as public as I was.

Q. Do you think women have a special part to play in the continuing fight for peace?

A. In Egypt we say, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." Women are by nature for peace, we are the ones who instill peace in the home and in our children. I think the real serenity we can achieve as individuals comes from our efforts to help others. If men would only give us a chance there would be no war in the world.

Q. What was the happiest day of your life?

A. The day I married Sadat. Oh, and the days I had the children...

Q. How "normal" a marriage did you have with all the pres-

sures of power?

A. We accepted the pressures as part of our mission. There were many times we couldn't enjoy ourselves as we wanted, but each day we set aside time to be together to spend with our family. I prayed for the day we could just be together like any other married couple without the burden of responsibility.

Q. Could you ever fall in love or marry someone else?

A. No. Never. Because very simply no one could ever replace Sadat in my heart. All I ever wanted was to be Anwar's wife and stand by his side. Each year they say I will marry this one or that one, but I am still married and I still love Anwar. It's not that I live in the past. Anwar is gone and I know I must go on.

Q. Do you miss your children? Jehan's three married daugh-



Mrs. Jehan Sadat: Elizabeth Taylor once called her the "most beautiful woman" in the world. (Inset) Jehan gets her degree at the University of South Carolina, USA.

ters live in Egypt, her son studies in New York. Will they go into politics, knowing the risks?

A. I do, I wish I could see them with my own eyes to make sure that they're all right. They don't seem to be interested in a political future and I hope none of them will enter politics.

Q. The Reagans, Dr. Kissinger and the British Royals are your close friends. Whom do you admire that you haven't met?

A. Maybe the Pope. I respect him so much though it has nothing to do with religion.

And Mrs. Thatcher, who I admire tremendously. She's a wonderful woman; strong and decisive and she is a mother. I felt tremendous sympathy for her when her son was lost in the desert.

Q. You even took your degree finale in front of a TV camera. Do you ever long to be back in the public eye?

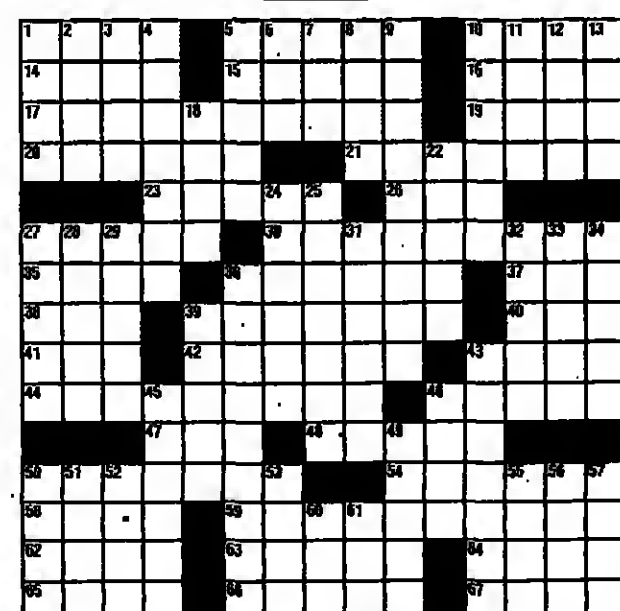
A. No. I miss none of the pomp. I never wanted publicity though sometimes I felt other women might learn by example. I don't need the approval of

others for my work, as long as I know I did my best that is enough.

Throughout your life with Sadat you were in constant fear for his life. Do you still fear death?

A. For the rest of my life I will hear the automatic gunfire that ripped the life out of my husband, but now it's over, finished. Sadat was my only worry. Now I don't fear anything — certainly not for myself. Sometimes life is so hard. I could welcome death because I know I'll meet my husband again.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Lascivious look
 - 5 Cog unit
 - 10 Command to Rover
 - 14 Helpful one
 - 15 Soprano
 - 16 Lucina —
 - 18 Importuna
 - 19 Couturiere
 - 20 Signify
 - 21 Cassandra, for example
 - 23 Staggar
 - 26 Dan Beard's gp.
 - 27 Actor David
 - 30 Repenter's "garment"
 - 35 Goddess of discord
 - 36 Feathers
 - 37 Sticky stuff
 - 38 Wander about
 - 39 — superlatives (axaggerates)
 - 40 Comic Costello
 - 41 Greek letter
 - 42 Crow or Fox
 - 43 Bewildered
 - 44 Cotton fabric
 - 46 Upstairs
 - 47 Give — whirl
 - 48 Lily bulbs
 - 50 A rite of spring fixture
 - 54 Certain passageways
 - 56 Words of understanding
 - 59 Tunic of a sort
 - 62 Nonsense verse creator
 - 63 Dismal: Scot. var.
 - 64 Talking bird
 - 65 Propellers
 - 66 Food, clothing, shelter
 - 67 Donkey, in Mainz
- DOWN**
- 1 Cheryl or Alan
 - 2 Green land
 - 3 Genesis location
 - 4 Does a shoemaker's job
 - 5 Circus performer
 - 6 Granny, in Berlin
 - 7 Adult acorn
 - 8 — blen
 - 9 Nitwit
 - 10 "The Last —", Edwin O'Connor novel
 - 11 "Cat Nation" tribe
 - 12 — Benedict
 - 13 More's mate
 - 18 Knock out
 - 22 Steel city of Germany —
 - 24 Byron's — Harold
 - 25 Sniffles' needs
 - 27 Israeli desert
 - 28 Indignant
 - 29 Author Gore
 - 31 Daft
 - 32 Arctic abode
 - 33 Aviary
 - 34 Tipsters
 - 36 Commedia dell'arte character
 - 39 Link
 - 43 Supple
 - 45 Dastardly ones
 - 46 Agitate
 - 49 Actor Kaplan et al.
 - 50 Venus da —
 - 51 Sailing
 - 52 Period of time
 - 53 Bacchanalian cry
 - 55 San — Obispo
 - 56 Feudal sart
 - 57 Render airtight
 - 60 Poet's before
 - 61 Disencumber

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

LANA OEDD SAILS
IDOL EXAM AGREE
MORE CORA CROWN
ABTROTIN THE HANO
SEATED AARE
NEW ATHENS
DISCS HIST AMAT
INTHEINCKOFTIME
ETVU OMEL EELER
TOMTOM PAN
GASH SCOTER
AWORDTOHEWISE
EVOKE OVAL LATE
DORIS MERE EROS
ANNES PLOY TAPE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
HANDLE WITH CARE

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ Q 9 8 6 4
 ♥ A 7
 ♦ K 3
 ♣ K 4 3 2

EAST
 ♠ A 10 2
 ♥ K Q J 8 3
 ♦ Q 10 6 5
 ♣ 8

SOUTH
 ♠ 3
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ A J 8 7 4
 ♣ A Q J 10 6

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♦ 1 ♥ 1 ♣ Pass
 2 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
 5 ♣ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♥
 We know a lot of players who go shuffling through the streets barefoot because of the fact that they did not draw trumps. However, there are just as many who go around unshod as a result of drawing trumps too soon.

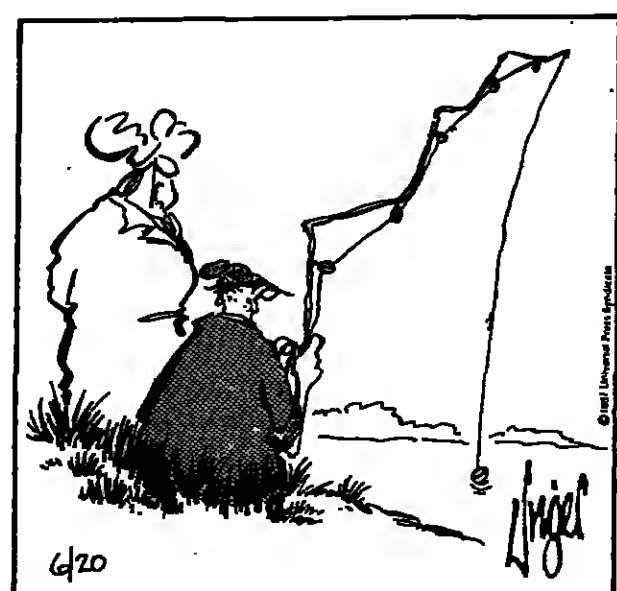
While minor suits tend to be neglected, several pairs in a duplicate pair event managed to avoid the poor three no trump contract in fa-

vor of the good five club game. North's sensible decision to jump to four clubs was the prime impetus to that contract. All that remained was for South to justify his partner's bidding.

After the lead of the king of hearts, the more simple-minded souls won, drew three rounds of trumps and then tried to set up diamonds with a single ruff—a line that was distinctly against the odds. They ended up losing a trick in each plain suit for down one.

The better technicians realized that they might need two ruffs to set up diamonds. So they drew only two rounds of trumps, then tried to ruff a diamond low. Unfortunately, East overtrumped, so this line also resulted in down one.

Only one declarer made his contract, and the defenders could do nothing to thwart him. He won the ace of hearts, cashed the king-ace of diamonds and led a third round of the suit. Instead of ruffing in dummy, however, he discarded a heart. Now there was no way that the defenders could stop him from ruffing a heart low and a diamond high. That loser-on-loser play allowed him to concede only one spade trick and one diamond.



"Don't blame me! I told you to put it in the trunk."

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will have to deal with a matter before you are quite ready to do so. You will have all the energy you need but not all the time. You should avoid pointless exertions. Be a little more tolerant.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

A good idea will help you to make the right decision. You should not place too much trust in your intuitions, rely more on reason. Attend at once to a personal matter. Be prompt.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You should not rely on others to do things for you. Do not be too fond of the sound of your own voice. Take a little better care of your health. Be reliable.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

Try to take a more positive attitude. Once you have made up your mind stick to it. Try to a case just a little more self-control. Be considerate.

Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You should make sure you are not getting into anyone's way. Have the courage of your convictions. Do not take anything for granted just now. Be reasonable.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You will have to deal with someone who is not inclined to listen to reason. What started as a hobby will tend to turn into an obsession, so beware. Avoid excessive expenditure. Be moderate.

Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You will find it more difficult to do what others ask you to do. You should try to ensure that you do not ask for what is obviously impossible. Make sure you do not neglect your partner. Be thankful.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Things will be more in your liking. You have something to be really pleased about. You will be able to see things more clearly. Be resolute.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You should not expect others to be at your beck and call. Make sure you do not neglect an infection. You will tend to exaggerate and should take corrective measures. Be sensible.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

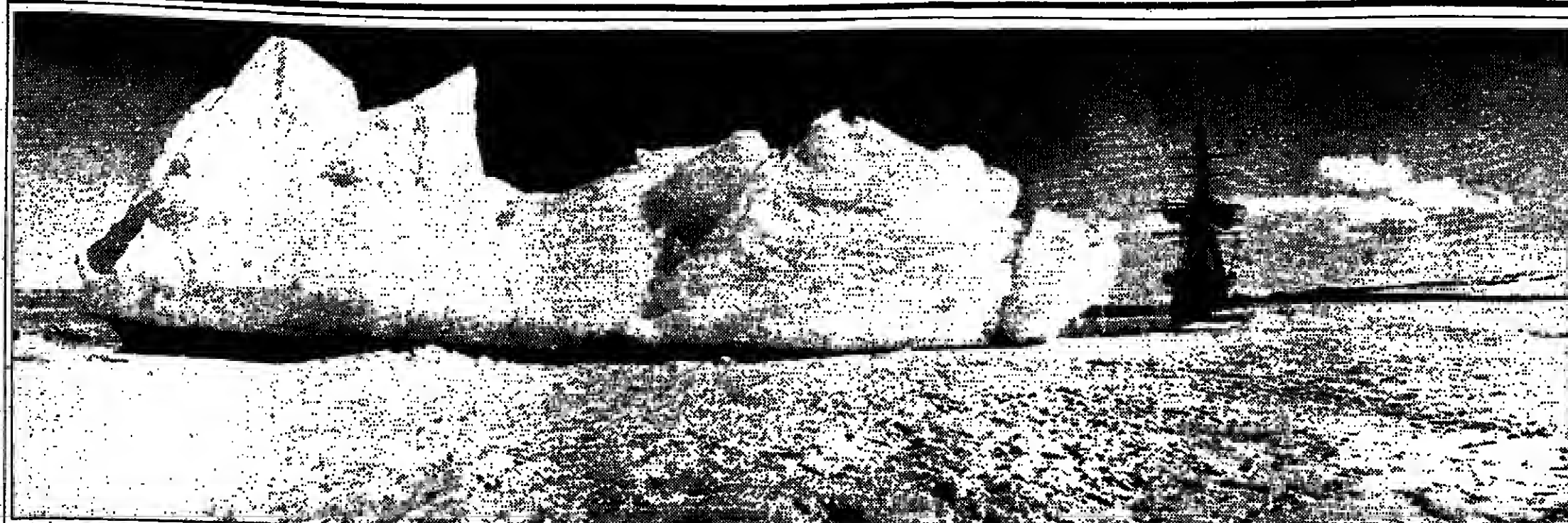
You should make sure you do not interfere in something that does not concern you. Avoid making promises you will not be able to keep. You should keep your wits very much about you. Be attentive.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will have to deal with a rather confused situation. You should avoid jumping to conclusions. Take care not to exceed speed limits. Be helpful.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

Your personal situation will take a turn for the better but you must continue to be tactful. You should not allow your attention to wander. Take what you hear with a slight pinch of salt. Be magnanimous.



Antarctic hole: Scott's Terra Nova in Antarctica, where scientists have found an alarming gap in the ozone layer above the ice-pack. Fast-food packaging is believed to be one of the culprits.

New ozone danger

A sharp increase in methane gas in the atmosphere will make the planet warmer and may worsen seasonal losses of protective ozone over Antarctica.

By Lee Siegel

LOS ANGELES (AP): A sharp increase in methane gas in the atmosphere since 1978 probably will make the planet warmer and may worsen seasonal losses of protective ozone over Antarctica, scientists say.

But the 11 percent increase in methane in the past decade also may slow depletion of the ozone shield over the rest of the planet, said F. Sherwood Rowland and Donald R. Blake, chemists at the University of California at Irvine.

Their study was published recently in the journal Science.

Methane is the major component of natural gas, but about 80 percent of atmospheric methane comes from decomposition in rice paddies, swamps and the intestines of cows, with some contribution from wood digestion in termites, Rowland said.

Humans are responsible for increased methane levels

because they are raising more cows, growing more rice and chopping down tropical forests, which provides food for more termites, said atmospheric scientist Pat Zimmerman of the national center for atmospheric research in Boulder, Colorado.

Methane, along with carbon dioxide and pollutants, contributes to the "greenhouse effect" in which solar heat is trapped near the earth, rather than dissipating through the higher atmosphere.

Scientists generally agree that the increased level of such pollutants will cause a worldwide temperature rise of 3 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit (1.6 to 2.75 degrees Celsius) by the year 2050.

They fear the increase may cause crop-threatening droughts and partially melt polar icecaps, which could raise sea levels up to 15 feet (5 meters) and threaten coastal cities.

Although ozone is an air pollutant at low altitudes, the ozone layer in the stratosphere

shields earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation. Scientists say reduction of the ozone layer will cause more skin cancers and might trigger climatic changes.

In 1974, Rowland and chemist Mario Molina first warned that the ozone layer was threatened by man-made chlorine compounds called chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, which are used as refrigeration coolants, aerosol propellants and for making plastic foams. The United States banned spray-can CFCs in 1978.

Mounting evidence indicates CFCs are responsible for the worldwide loss of about 1 percent of earth's ozone shield and the formation of a hole that forms in the ozone layer above Antarctica for a few months starting every September.

Blake and Rowland said methane increases may worsen the ozone hole by aiding formation of clouds above Antarctica. That's because studies by Molina and others suggest the



A consumer's selection of aerosols. Many such products are contributing to the build-up of CFC.

clouds enhance chemical reactions that allow chlorine from CFCs to break down ozone.

As methane rises into the polar stratosphere, it breaks down and releases hydrogen, which combines with a chemical called hydroxyl to form water, which in turn freezes into clouds, Blake explained.

Outside Antarctica, wind and higher temperatures prevent formation of stratos-

pheric clouds, so methane attacks chlorine from CFCs, reducing the amount of chlorine available to destroy ozone, Blake said.

The 11 percent methane increase "will make the ozone hole over Antarctica more severe. It will probably make the ozone depletion in the rest of the world less severe," said Molina, of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's jet propulsion laboratory,

in Pasadena. He said the increase "will make the greenhouse effect more severe."

Rowland and Blake also said that because increasing atmospheric methane reduces the amount of hydroxyl present, it indicates the atmosphere is losing its ability to cleanse itself of pollutants. Hydroxyl reacts with many pollutants and removes them from the atmosphere.

Canned oxygen — 65 cents a whiff

By Seigo Sakamoto

TOKYO (Reuters): What price fresh air? In Tokyo it's the equivalent of 65 cents a whiff.

Canned oxygen is becoming a big seller in Japan and a new breed of bar is springing up in Tokyo selling inhalations of the invisible but essential gas most people are content to breathe in free of charge.

"A power plant that recharges human beings," proclaims one oxygen advert.

The first "O2 bar" with a simple counter and several chairs under blue lights, made its debut last October in the sporting goods section at one of Tokyo's major department stores, Takashimaya.

A male attendant and female clerks cater to customers who turn up to inhale three minutes of 95-percent pure oxygen for 100 yen (about 75 cents).

Customers can choose oxygen scented with either peppermint, coffee, lemon or mushroom through a wine glass-shaped mask.

"We've had a larger than expected turnout of some 50 people daily," Takashimaya spokesman Hiromitsu Morii said.

The oxygen barman, Masaru Kageyama, added: "Most people say they feel refreshed after trying the oxygen. But it seems that those who are quite healthy or expect too much do not feel any noticeable effects."

"I don't feel much effect," said a middle-aged businessman after trying a whiff at the bar. "But I will buy a can to take home because my colleagues say it will help neutralise my heavy smoking."

Several firms are competing in the fledgling canned oxygen market, with a five litre can of condensed oxygen selling for between 700 yen (5.30 dollars) and 1,500 yen (11.3 dollars).

All say they are optimistic about prospects for the product.

Makers say that inhaling several deep whiffs from the cans give a refreshing feeling and hasten recovery from

fatigue or a hangover. A five-litre can contains two or three minutes of the gas, makers said. "After long hours of strenuous workout, tense study, uncomfortable driving, or a hectic meeting... a can of oxygen revitalises your lungs with new, instant power," trumpets one advertisement.

Enthusiasts

The makers are targeting sports enthusiasts, exhausted students and businessmen at present, but Japan's growing population of old people is also seen as a potential market.

Since last September, Nippon Sanso has marketed five litre cans of 95 percent oxygen called "Oxy", and a company spokesman said sales so far were close to the pace of its sales target of one million cans a year.

Yoshihisa Toichi of Daido Sanso said that over 100,000 cans of peppermint-flavoured "O2N and O2FF" priced at 1,000-yen (7.50 dollars) apiece, had been sold in the 3 months since they went on market last August.

"It's more than we had anticipated," he said.

Asked why oxygen was becoming popular, Nippon Sanso spokesman Akira Yamauchi said that Japanese people were more affluent, more aware of the pollution affecting the big cities and under greater stress in their daily lives than before.

"I think it is a demand of the times that people want things good to health," he said.

Professor Jun Yamakawa of the Nippon Women's College of Physical Education said she thought the oxygen sniffing would do healthy people little good.

"Unless you have gone through very strenuous exercise, inhaling purer oxygen would probably be more beneficial to your mind than to your body."

"Deep breathing of natural air, about 21 percent of which is oxygen, would be enough to recover from normal exercise," she added.

WHEN a team of US environmental consultants concluded that a giant coal-fired power plant — big enough to double Sri Lanka's electricity supply — would have little impact on the environment, they had not reckoned on the bowls of public protest that followed.

Tippets, Abbot, McCarthy & Stratton (TAMS) were commissioned by the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) to undertake an environmental impact assessment on a 900 megawatt coal-fired power plant — Sri Lanka's first — which was to be built on a coastal site at Trincomalee in north-east Sri Lanka.

TAMS submitted their assessment at the end of last year. But as soon as Sri Lankan environmental groups had had a chance to read it, they dubbed it "unscientific," "superficial" and even "illegal."

"They found the report contained very few local environmental data, made no comparisons with other possible sites as the law required, and dismissed 'in one line' the possible impact of acid rain on the important, vulnerable, Sri Lankan tea plantations."

Lakshmi de Silva, president of the Environmental Foundation, a group of lawyers interested in environmental issues, says the assessment ignored Colombo weather records, which go back nearly 80 years — and predicted the spread of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from the smoke plume on measurements made in the Western USA, in Guam (3,000 miles away in the Pacific), and in Chu Lai in Vietnam.

Moreover, the assessment only looked at the possible effects of the acid gases immediately around the plant, and did not consider their long-range transport — which is the major cause of acid rain in Europe and the United States.

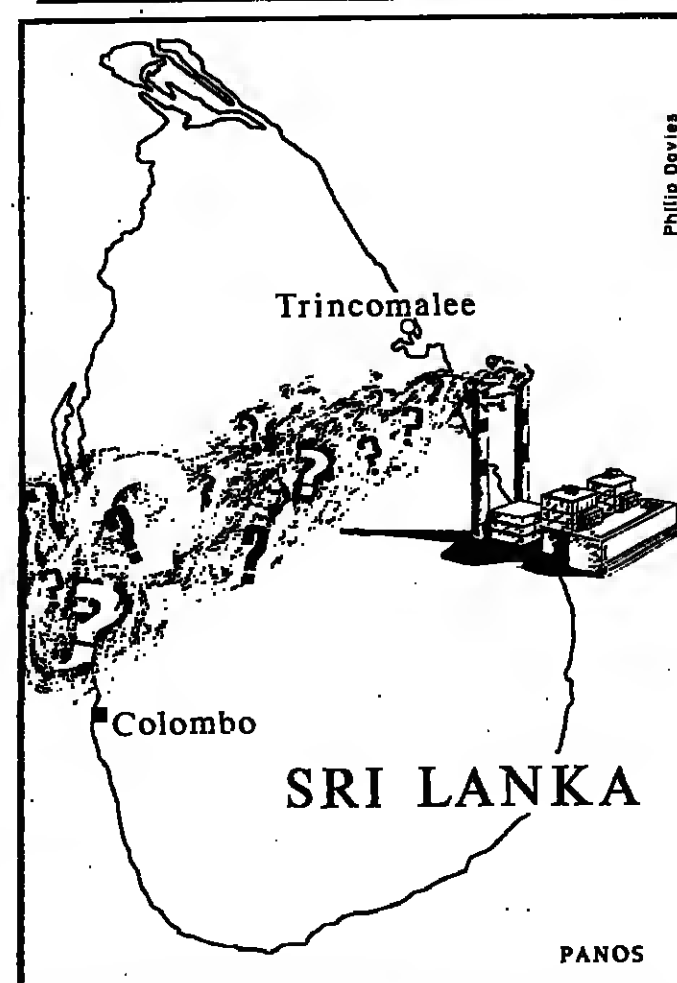
Course

Thus galvanised, the environment groups saw one possible course of action. Since the plant was to be built on the coastline, the Coastal Conservation Act gave the director of coast conservation a power of veto over the project. From the publication of the impact assessment they had 30 days to make a submission to the Ceylon Coastal Advisory Committee (CCAC) — which was due to advise the director of coast conservation on whether he should grant a permit for construction.

"We formed a campaign committee and wrote to 3,000 of the 4,000 members of the Sri Lanka Environmental Congress (an umbrella group) says de Silva, who chaired the campaign, "and nearly 1,000 responded and wrote to the direc-

Casting clouds over Sri Lanka

Environmental groups in Sri Lanka are delighted with their campaign against a major new coal-fired power plant. They say they have 'come of age' in their first joint national campaign. Now they await an official decision due on March 20.



Will a new coal-fired power station cast a cloud over Sri Lanka?

tor of coast conservation, Mr S. R. Amarasinghe, asking him to deny the permit."

Letters arrived daily in all three national languages. By law, Mr Amarasinghe's small office had to reply to every one. Some 50 of the 1,000 letter-writers also visited the director to press their views — forcing him to hold an impromptu public inquiry.

The writers came from "all over the country, from very remote areas" de Silva says, belying claims by the CEB that the protesters were a Colombo elite who wanted to preserve the beautiful Trincomalee bay as a holiday resort.

The campaign influenced the

CCAC — which last month advised that the project should be stopped. Now Mr Amarasinghe has to decide by 20 March whether the plant should go ahead.

Meanwhile, the Ceylon Environmental Authority (CEA) — another advisory body — has "backtracked" on its earlier unequivocal support for the TAMS environmental impact assessment, and called in another team of foreign experts, this time to be organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi.

However, the UNEP study seems unlikely to be under way before early April — too late for

Mr Amarasinghe's decision. In the circumstances, Mr Amarasinghe has three main options: to grant the permit unconditionally; to grant it on condition that the plans be improved for example, "sulphur scrubbers" could be added to the power station chimneys, to reduce the danger of creating acid rain; or to deny the permit altogether.

"The environmental groups favour abandonment," says de Silva. "But we are responsible NGOs. We know Sri Lanka needs more power. We are not saying down with power plants, down with coal. We want power from a plant that is sustainable over a long period, a plant that will not leave Sri Lanka with enormous costs for environmental recovery a few years from now. We are saying that if we must burn coal, then we must choose the right place and make thorough, objective assessments of environmental effects."

Acid rain could be a key issue in Ceylon. Ceylon teas are particularly vulnerable, de Silva claims. Tea grows best in acidic soils at a pH (acidity) of 4.5 to 5.5, but the soils are already much more acid than that (pH 3.5) and approaching a critical value, says de Silva, quoting work by Ceylon tea researchers. Already the mineral dolomite (calcium magnesium carbonate) is being spread widely to neutralise the soil. Just a further pH 0.1 increase caused by acid rain could be critical for the tea industry, he says.

So far, de Silva is pleased with the environmentalists' campaign. "I think the environmental movement in Sri Lanka has come of age. It has united nine NGOs that have never collaborated before. We've discovered the strength that comes from working together." The NGOs have also found that their high-profile campaign has drawn in lawyers, concerned citizens and many scientists "who we'd never dreamed would join us earlier."

Will this new-found influence be brought to bear on other issues? "Certainly," says de Silva. Campaigns are now being planned against a 3,000-acre Australian-Canadian stripmining operation in a watershed area next to a national park; against the "very high" lead levels in Colombo; and for the amendment of the statutes of the Ceylon Environmental Authority, to give the body more than mere advisory power.

"At last we are well on our way to bringing the environment to the front of Sri Lankan politics," de Silva says. PANOS Features

Cremations go electric on the Ganges

The Indian government aims to cut pollution of the sacred river Ganges, by building a \$560,000 crematorium in ancient Varanasi where pilgrims have flocked for years to burn their dead on log pyres by the shore.

By Michael Miller

VARANASI, India: Cremations at Hinduism's holiest city on the banks of the Ganges are going electric.

The Indian government is trying to cut pollution of the sacred river by building an electric crematorium in Varanasi, where pilgrims have flocked for hundreds of years to bathe in the Ganges and to burn their dead on log pyres by the shore.

But inefficient cremations often result in half-burned bodies being cast into the river. The crematorium, scheduled for completion in June, will not only help clean up the Ganges, but will also save time and money, according to its builders.

"At present, the cost of burning a body is 500 to 1,000 rupees (\$40-80)," A.K. Ghoshal, executive engineer of the Indian government's Ganga (Ganges) project directorate, said in an interview. Electric cremations will cost less than 100 rupees (\$8), he estimated.

"So much wood will be saved," Ghoshal said. "It takes three to five quintals (300-500 kg) of wood to burn one body."

Electric crematoriums are already in place in the nearby Ganges communities of Kanpur and Allahabad, and in larger cities like New Delhi and Calcutta. Another is planned near the Taj Mahal at Agra, 200 km (125 miles) south of New Delhi.

The current project is the first for Varanasi, formerly known as Benares, an ancient settlement that dates back 2,500 years or more, as far back as Athens or Jerusalem.

Devout Hindus travel long distances to bathe at Varanasi's ghats, broad steps that line the west bank of the Ganges for about four miles (seven km).



Thousands of pilgrims through the river Ganges in India.

From dawn until dark the steps in the central city are packed with pilgrims clad in saris and loin cloths taking their ritual dips.

Many Varanasi residents use the river as their bathtub, and stretches of the bank are lined with dhobi-wallahs, or clothes washers, bashing soiled garments against flat stones.

Cremations take place chiefly at Manikarnika ghat, near the centre of town. Smoke and flames rise 24 hours a day from

dozens of pyres. The burning bodies are tightly wrapped from head to toe in white for men or bright colours for women. Attendants stand by with long poles to keep the fires burning and the bodies atop the logs.

The new crematorium is situated at the Harishchandra ghat, a secondary burning spot upstream from Manikarnika.

Project officials expect it will be used by families who cannot afford the wood needed to burn

a body. It will also be used to cremate unclaimed bodies.

According to Hindu custom, all dead bodies must be burned. When the burning takes place beside the Ganges, the ashes are cast into the river.

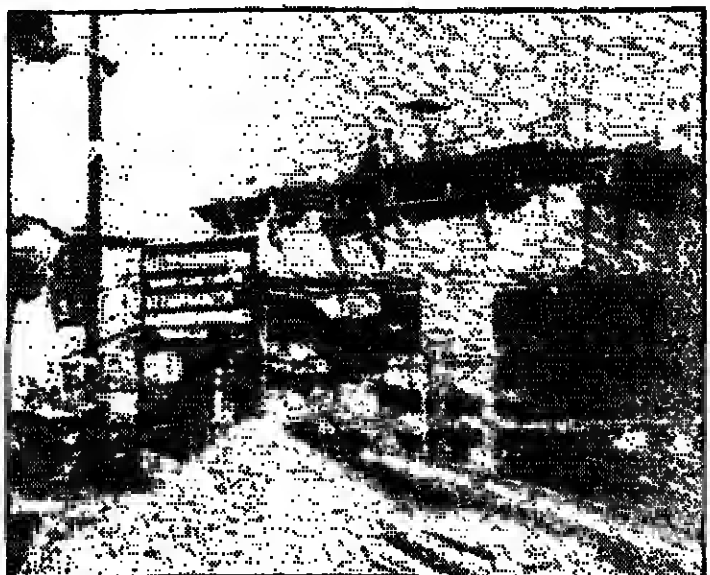
"Some poor families cannot afford enough wood, so the result is half-burned bodies," said one government official connected with the project, who asked not to be named. "Then they throw the half-burned parts into the river, which increases the amount of decomposed matter and causes contamination of the water."

The electric crematorium will leave only pure ashes to be scattered on the river, the official said.

Varanasi takes its drinking water from the Ganges upstream from the cremation sites, but many cities down river also depend on its flow.

A bonfire cremation takes about three hours. In the electric facility, which will have two furnaces, cremations will take only about 45 minutes.

The crematorium, which will cost seven million rupees (\$560,000) to build, is part of a package of 29 Ganges riverside improvement projects in Varanasi that the Indian government is financing at a total cost of 430 million rupees (\$36 million).



Workers construct an electric crematorium in the holy city of Varanasi. The project is aimed at cutting pollution along the banks of the sacred Ganges river.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Training seminar for professionals

Experts meet to discuss how to improve training facilities

By M.C. Bose

A TRAINING seminar for professionals, organised by Zaid Al Kazemi Trading Co., was held at the Kuwait Plaza Hotel yesterday.

Twenty senior training experts took part in this specialised seminar aimed at bringing out Kuwait's talent in the field of training and aimed to introduce the specialists from various organisations to one another facilitating the exchange of experience.

The seminar was sponsored by a Kuwait company specialising in providing training packages and aids and representing internationally reputed training organisations such as M/s McGraw-Hill Training Systems, College of Petroleum Oxford, Racial Training College, UK, etc.

Importance
The highlight of the seminar was the presentation of research papers by trainers based in Kuwait. The first paper was on "Modern developments in training" by Dr U. L. Rao, Head of Training, Institute of Banking Studies, Kuwait, which is the apex organisation for training facilities for banking and investment field.

He discussed the distinction between training, education and development very succinctly. He emphasised the importance of internalising the training and development process within an



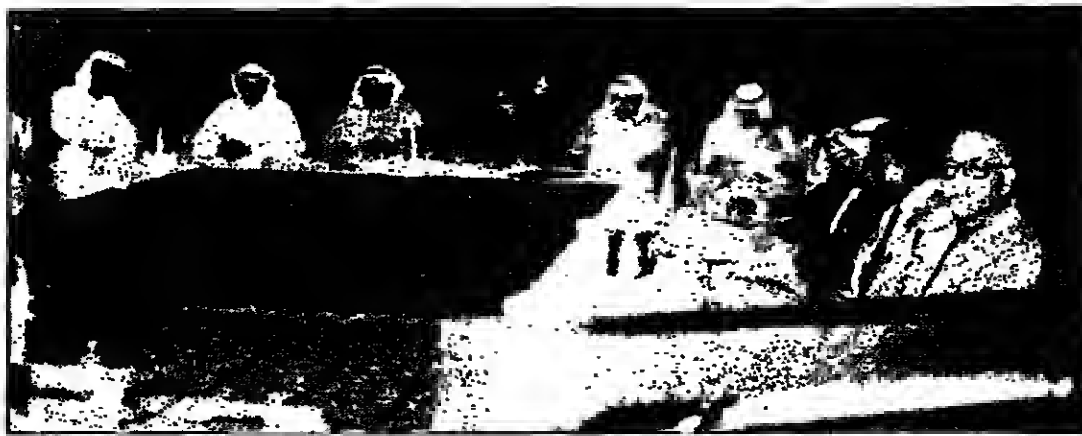
Dr U. L. Rao

organisation without which the entire effort can be wasted.

The trainer in the modern context has to assume several roles such as strategic thinker, administrator, consultant, designer and instructor.

These require refinements in the methods of training. The learning method is now often multi-dimensional and multi-media. Research has given insights into effective adult learning methods which can be used in the design of training courses. Along with developments in technology the use of audiovisuals has assumed increasing importance. The watchword of the future trainer is "developing excellence".

The next paper was on the use of personal computers in various fields of training and was presented



Some of those who attended the seminar

by Mike Anderton (who is an international consultant) and Rajan, Manager Training Services of Zaid Al Kazemi Sons Trading Co.

The paper was presented in the form of a role play with Anderton outlining the requirements of the trainer in terms of his goals, objectives, needs and constraints in developing a training programme and presenting it to number of participants and evaluating them.

Rajan then demonstrated how course preparation, presentation of training and evaluation of participant's comprehension is made easy and time saving by use of personal computer and special software.

This system is called Computer Based Training (CBT for short) which is the latest state of

the art training technology. The major benefits of CBT is that it is highly cost effective saving considerably on the time of the trainer and that of participants and making the whole programme very interesting and personalised.

The third paper was presented by Adel Al Shamali, Director of Training and Development, Kuwait Airways. The subject was "New Technology in Training Information & Needs" abbreviated as TINS. The main feature of TINS is the integration of three modules which form its structure which is Staff basic information, Job analysis and Training records.

The major benefits of TINS has been in clear identification of training needs, systematic tabulation of training program-

mes, career development plan for each employee, budget control, information and record system and automated management system for manpower progression.

The meeting was attended by some of the well known figures in training field such as the Training Manager for Petroleum Training Centre, the apex training body of the oil sector, by Assistant General Manager of Kuwait Finance House, Administration Manager of the Sultan Centre, etc.

M/s Zaid Al Kazemi Sons Trading Co. has established a "Sales Support Centre" for marketing and providing after-sales service of training packages and computer based training programmes. They further plan to expand into providing specialised handbooks and publications

relating to Training & Development, Manpower Planning, Career Development, Personnel Administration & Computer Based Training.

Apart from representing number of reputed training organisations & publishers and software companies they also have contracted an international consultant, Mike Anderton to provide specialists training facilities in the field of Management and Marketing focusing on increasing sales by improved sales productivity of salesmen & up-to-date sales management techniques.

Their CBT effort is spearheaded by Mrs Chandrika Rajan who is a specialist in Computer Application in the field of training.

Apart from the CBT field they further intend to develop "Desk Top Publishing Tools" to facilitate preparation of training programmes.

Clients

In 1987, Zaid Al Kazemi Sons Trading Company secured a number of reputed clients for their training packages such as M/s Sultan Center, United Arab Shipping Company, Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Finance House, Kuwait Oil Company etc.

The department is headed by P.B.V. Rajan who also handles marketing high technology scientific equipments such as Lasers, Radiation monitoring instruments, Medical Electronics etc.

World Business Summary

Reagan pledges to veto protectionist trade bill

WASHINGTON, March 13, (Reuters): President Reagan said yesterday chances of an acceptable trade law emerging from Congress had improved but he would veto any legislation that was "anti-trade, anti-consumer, anti-jobs and anti-growth." Reagan, in his weekly radio address, said he was encouraged that congressional conferees had eliminated a number of protectionist provisions he objected to but "many objectionable provisions remain."

"Only wholesale elimination of many of the existing items will produce a bill I can sign," he said. Reagan said the US trade picture was improving, citing figures showing that the merchandise trade deficit had declined 18 per cent since the third quarter of 1986 and a rise in the volume of exports over the past 15 months. The US merchandise trade deficit rose to a record \$159.2 billion last year from 144.3 billion in 1986. Government and private economists say a weaker dollar has made American products cheaper to buy overseas and boosted exports.

"Clearly we are in an export boom," Reagan said. Reagan made similar remarks to businessmen on Friday at a White House meeting, indicating the administration has become more optimistic about chances of receiving from Congress a trade law it can accept. Commerce Secretary William Verity, in a television interview, said he expected Congress to send its final trade bill to the White House some time next month.

"Well, I think the leaders in Congress want a trade bill," he said. "They want it very badly, and they're making a big push and hopefully they will have it in pretty good shape by the end of March and into April."

EEC imports on the rise

BRUSSELS, March 13, (Xinhua): The European Economic Communities (EEC) registered a balanced trade last year as its exports fell one per cent in both value and volume terms while its imports rose by a same percentage, said EEC statistics office yesterday.

In 1986, EEC exports were two per cent higher than imports. Its exports to third countries were an estimated 339 billion Ecu (European currency unit, 1 Ecu = 1.24 USD) in 1987, compared with 342 billion Ecu in 1986. Of this amount (The Danish and Greek figures had yet to be estimated), sales to industrialised third countries were 229 billion Ecu, up one per cent. The United States remained the largest EEC customer with purchase of 72 billion Ecu, despite a four per cent loss in 1986.

EEC deliveries to the European Free Trade Association (Efta) countries continued to expand, rising four per cent to over 90 billion Ecu in 1987. Meanwhile, exports to Japan rose 19 per cent to nearly 14 billion Ecu. EEC exports to developing countries dropped three per cent in 1987 to 105 billion Ecu due largely to a sharp decline in commodity prices which caused many countries to rein back their imports.

Eastern European countries also narrowed their imports from the community in 1987 by eight per cent to 25 billion Ecu.

But the overall decline was moderated by a 14 per cent increase in exports to the newly industrialising countries and regions in the Far East to 21 billion Ecu, said the report.

UK budget may propose bold changes in tax system

LONDON, March 13, The UK's next budget is widely expected to propose bold changes in the tangled British tax system.

But when Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, unveils his budget on Tuesday, the changes may prove less far-reaching than the pundits have been predicting.

Instead, the overhaul may well boil down to somewhat lower income taxes financed by soaring government revenues.

Many analysts think Lawson will slash taxes by as much as £4 billion (\$7.4 billion) by lowering personal income-tax rates, which presently range from 27 per cent to 60 per cent, and reducing the number of tax brackets.

By tradition, tax changes in the budget for the financial year starting April 1 remain shrouded in secrecy until the Chancellor reveals them to the House of Commons, according to Wall Street Journal.

The tax cuts — prematurely hailed as tax reform by analysts and eminent academics — seem likely to be financed by Britain's roaring economic expansion.

Thanks to surging personal and corporate earnings, Treasury coffers now overflow with an estimated extra £10 billion.

After Lawson uses this revenue bonanza to give Britons

After Nigel Lawson uses his revenue bonanza to give Britons some of their money back, he will have enough left over to create Britain's first effective budget surplus in years.

some of their money back, he will have enough left over to create Britain's first effective budget surplus in years.

The country's surging growth rate has driven the inflation-adjusted earnings of large numbers of taxpayers into higher tax brackets — so-called bracket creep.

If Lawson didn't cut taxes as expected, he actually would be squeezing the economy with a more restrictive fiscal policy. In other words, he would be raising taxes.

Bracket creep has caused taxpayers' deductions — called allowances in Britain — to lag their income growth, providing the cash to cover Lawson's tax-cutting check. "The bill is being paid by (tax) allowances not going up in line with earnings," says Christopher Johnson, chief economic adviser of Lloyds Bank PLC, a big British bank. UK tax allowances are indexed to inflation but don't reflect real increases in earnings.

"Rate reduction is not tax reform," says Charles McIure, a

fellow of the Hoover Institution, a California-based think tank. McIure also was chief architect of the US Treasury's first tax-overhaul blueprint in 1984. "But I would argue reducing those high top rates is worthwhile."

However Britain finances the cuts, the country is ripe for deeper reductions in income taxes than Lawson may envision, says Alan Reynolds, chief economist of Polyconomics, a US supply-side research firm.

In a recent letter to London's Financial Times, he estimated that a taxpayer earning the equivalent of \$28,000 a year pays a marginal tax rate of 60 per cent in Britain, 45 per cent in France, 32 per cent in West Germany and 31 per cent in the US. (Marginal taxes describe the effective rate levied after all direct taxes, including social security, are taken into account.)

It's also probable that Lawson actually won't reduce taxpayers' tax burden that much.

Instead, he will partially shift their burden to spending from income. The Chancellor is expected

to raise indirect taxes on tobacco, alcohol and gasoline and possibly extend the value-added tax, a general tax on the consumption of many goods and services, to cover newspapers and books as well.

Unlike tax overhaul in other Western nations, Lawson isn't expected to widen the tax base by closing loopholes that taxpayers use to reduce their tax bills.

"It seems to me Britain has a long way to go to broaden the tax base like the US has done," says Joseph Pechman, a tax expert and fellow of the Brookings Institution, a Washington DC-based think tank.

To be fair to Lawson, Britain doesn't offer quite as many tax shelters as the US did before its 1986 Tax Reform Act. "There's not quite so much undergrowth to be cleared" in Britain, notes Lloyds Bank's Johnson.

Expensive
In addition, Lawson's well-received 1984 overhaul of corporate taxes actually reduced tax rates and closed many shelters, too.

The most expensive loopholes for the UK government are allowances for married men and single people, which will return an estimated £23.3 billion to taxpayers in the tax year ending April 5.

These loopholes could become

even costlier to the Treasury if, as anticipated, Lawson introduces a multi-year overhaul of the taxation of husbands and wives.

A possible curb on another deduction — a tax break on mortgage-interest payments — is the only way the UK Chancellor may broaden the base.

Higher oil prices

NEW YORK, Mar 13, (Opecna): Oil prices will rise to about \$20 per barrel later this year, an oil analyst here has predicted.

Paul Mitok of Salomon Brothers said he was recommending purchase of a wide range of international oil stocks. Reuter reported.

Norway unveils plans for tough wage curbs

OSLO, March 13, (Reuters): Norway's minority Labour government unveiled plans yesterday for tough wage controls to give most of the country's two million workers a basic pay rise of just one per cent this year.

A proposed law containing the wage controls is widely expected to get majority support in parliament.

"We now have a basis to achieve our aim of lower price rises and improved competitiveness so that we can maintain employment levels and welfare," Prime Minister Gro Harlem

Brundtland told a news conference.

"Our biggest economic problem has been the development in wages, costs and prices," Finance Minister Gunnar Berge said. "It cannot continue."

Norway, a welfare state, is facing lower prices for the North Sea oil that forms the backbone of its economy, a huge foreign trade deficit, and annual inflation of just under seven per cent — much higher than in most of its European trading partners.

The proposed wage controls, replacing a current temporary

pay freeze and due to last until April next year, will give all but the lowest-paid workers just one crown (15 cents) extra for every hour of labour.

The one per cent average pay rise compares with an average of eight per cent for industrial workers last year.

"This is good news," Stein Bruun, an analyst with brokers Oslo Finans, told Reuters. "It will bring down high costs and will improve the outlook for corporate earnings and for the competitiveness of Norwegian industry."

But 350,000 workers staged a two-hour protest strike yesterday, angry that the government had negotiated only with the Norwegian federation of trade unions, the country's highest union grouping, before announcing the measures.

The federation, representing 800,000 workers from all sectors of the economy, agreed in February to government demands that wage rises should not exceed five per cent this year. Afterwards, the government said other unions would not be able to negotiate higher rises.

Bond issue seen best way to finance UAE deficit

ABU DHABI, March 13, (Reuters): A planned bond issue by the UAE seems the best way to finance a federal budget deficit caused by falling oil revenues, banking sources said.

The government said last week it would issue bonds worth between two billion and three billion dirhams (\$540 million-800 million) on an unspecified date.

Spending cuts and introduction of import taxes and services fees have failed to eliminate budget deficits in recent years.

Investment

"Besides cutting the deficit, bonds will attract overseas investment given prevailing distrust in foreign markets after the October stock market crash," a banking source said yesterday.

An austerity drive has almost halved annual expenditure from about 22 billion dirhams (\$5.9 billion) four years ago, but deficits have persisted because of falling oil revenues.

The 1987 and 1986 budgets were both about 14.4 billion dirhams (\$3.97 billion), but the 1987 deficit of 2.757 billion dirhams (\$745 million) was more than double that of the previous year. The 1988 deficit is likely to be slightly less than the 1987 figure, the government has said.

Income
Oil provides more than 80 per cent of national income. Falling output and prices have slashed total revenues of the seven emirates making up the UAE from 60 billion dirhams (\$16.2 billion) in 1985, when oil cost \$28 a barrel.

Revenues were 26 billion dirhams (\$7 billion) in 1986, but rebounded to 33 billion dirhams (\$8.9 billion) in 1987.

The federal budget in theory comprises half the income of each emirate. But in some years Abu Dhabi and Dubai, which have almost all the country's oil, give less than their share and the

other emirates give nothing. Finance and Industry ministry undersecretary Naser Al Nuewis last month ruled out introducing income tax to cut the budget deficit but said more services fees or domestic borrowing were options.

Tendency
But a banking source said "I don't see a tendency for borrowing. Bonds remain the ideal if not the only solution to the problem. Services fees could help but are not enough."

An Abu Dhabi finance official was quoted by Al Itihad newspaper last week as saying each bond would be worth at least one million dirhams (\$270,000) and would probably be sold to banks, which could create a bond market by selling to clients.

Kuwait began issuing bonds at the end of last year and bankers expect Saudi Arabia to follow suit in its first fund-raising exercise in 25 years.

UK current account falls into red

LONDON, March 13, (Xinhua): A massive £9.6 billion deficit on Britain's visible trade in 1987 pushed its current account heavily into the red for the first time since the 1980s.

After being offset by £7.95 billion surplus from invisibles, such as banking, insurance and tourism, Britain suffered a current account deficit of £1.68 billion last year.

The figures from British trade and industry department here today are not too bad as compared with the deficit of £2.5 billion provisionally stated earlier.

The shortfall for the year was led from the rising visible deficit from £8.5 billion to £9.6 billion and the falling invisibles to £7.95 billion from £8.5 billion in 1986. The last time Britain suffered a deficit in the current account of balance of payments was in 1979 and since then its huge invisible incomes had been enough to offset visible deficits.

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Anglo-Tunisian trade ties expected to get major boost

LONDON, March 13, (Kuna): Anglo-Tunisian trade relations are expected to receive a major boost tomorrow when a Tunisian week gets underway here.

The week is organised by the Tunisian government jointly with the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce (ABCC).

The centrepiece of the week will be an exhibition of Tunisian goods to be held in the New Royal Horticultural Society hall in central London.

Among the items to be exhibited are textiles and garments, handicrafts and agricultural products.

There will also be a cultural display of Tunisian art and traditional costumes as well as folkloric dances.

The exhibition will be opened officially tomorrow by Tunisia's Minister of National Economy, Shabeddine Ben Mbarek and British Minister of Trade, Alan Clark.

There will be also a one-day seminar to be held following the exhibition opening.

It will be addressed by the two ministers in addition to a panel of British and Tunisian businessmen.

Among the topics to be discussed will be scope for joint ventures and the development of economic ties between Tunisia and Britain.

The ABCC said that the occasion would provide UK companies with opportunities for strengthening their activities in Tunisia.

"The Tunisian Minister is due to arrive here later today to take part in these activities."

The ABCC pointed out that the main aim of the week is to promote Tunisian exports to the UK.

In 1986 Britain enjoyed a £22.5 million trade surplus with Tunisia compared with £3.4 million in the previous year.

British exports to Tunisia fell by only eight per cent in 1986 to £39.8 million compared with £43.2 million in the previous year.

However, UK imports from Tunisia dropped by more than 50 per cent to £17.29 million compared with £39.8 million in 1985.

Egypt seeks more Arab investment

CAIRO, March 13, (Renter): Egypt urged Arab businessmen today to invest in the region and said it hoped to attract more of their money.

Prime Minister Atef Sedki told the opening session of a four-day Arab investment conference his government was doing its best to ease red tape hampering the flow of Arab money into the country.

He said Egypt gave priority to projects that would create more jobs and use local raw materials as part of its efforts to increase exports, cut imports and bring modern technology to the Arab region.

An official free foreign exchange market, set up last May, helped create a better climate for investment, Sedki said.

Economy Minister Youssri Mustapha said Arabs invested heavily elsewhere despite the region's vast economic potential. Inter-Arab investment was vital to economic and social development, he said.

The conference, organised by the Egyptian General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAIFZ), is being attended by delegates from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan, Morocco and Sudan.

Food commodities

LONDON, March 13, (Kuna): The aggregate value of agricultural and food commodities exported by Saudi Arabia to various countries during 1987 amounted to \$302.5 million representing 30.6 per cent of the total export of the non-oil sectors.

The State Council, China's cabinet, said the nation will introduce a contract system under which the power to handle most import and export commodities will be transferred to local foreign trade companies and certain well-managed industrial enterprises.

The official Xinhua news agency said areas and cities enjoying special status as foreign trade centres will be able to sign contracts with the state for the amount of hard currency they are

In search of an honest broker

By Mides

TRADITIONALLY this is the time of year when the expatriate financial advisers flock through Kuwait with briefcases filled with brochures and application forms for a wide range of savings plans, investment schemes and just plain scams! For the uninitiated they can be very persuasive with their smart suits and smart talk, but beware!

How can you tell the reputable from the dishonest? The credible from the crooked? First of all, you need time to decide. If any financial salesman tries to steamroller you into making a hasty decision about his products, my best advice is to back off.

If they keep on with a line about 'Act now or you'll miss a great opportunity,' don't believe a word of it.

Promises
Any honest adviser will realise that making a major financial commitment should not be hurried or rushed.

The second thing to beware of is promises of extraordinary profits. At a time when all the world's markets are feeling distinctly bumpy and fragile, you should look at someone who blithely offers you a guarantee of anything over 15 per cent

per year. Of course, it is perfectly possible to beat that figure, possible, but by no means easy, and NEVER guaranteed.

Most of the major fraud cases concerning expatriates over the past decade have involved a company, or bank, that promised investors a foolproof method of making a fortune.

Funds
Think about it, if some company you never heard of before really did have a foolproof method of making twenty or thirty per cent profit every year, they would hardly be here scrambling for your money.

Instead, they would go to the big boys, major banks and pension funds and even the Kuwait Investment Office, all of whom would be sure to reward them handsomely for such a brilliant and fail-safe financial breakthrough.

If they haven't done that, why are they here?

The next point to remember is never, ever, sign a cheque to the financial adviser themselves. If they want you to invest with a major unit trust, then make your cheque out to that unit trust. This is standard procedure and they should not object at all.

If they do, ask yourself why? You are likely to come up with a

nasty answer. The next point is not quite about honesty, but more about objectivity, although perhaps they are the same thing.

What I mean is this: at the moment, there's a lot to be said for simply putting all your cash into the bank and waiting for six months or a year to see if the world's stock markets have really recovered from the October Crash, or whether we have merely seen the first in a series of bear markets that will lead prices down and down over the next few years.

Decision
However, if you put your money into the bank, then any financial adviser you may have consulted about the decision will get exactly nothing, no commission, nothing from the bank, and therefore, no way of funding his trip to Kuwait to impart such valuable advice.

Is he a saint? Hardly, and the simple truth is that, whatever he may know about the markets, he simply will not give you advice that doesn't benefit him as well.

Even honest brokers live on commissions that they earn from persuading you to invest in a particular unit trust or savings scheme.

The economics of a selling trip to Kuwait are quite straightforward: the adviser has to pay for

his air tickets and hotel bill and show a profit as well, and all of it comes out of the commissions he earns on the investment he sells.

If his expenses are £2,000, then with the approximately 2 per cent commission he gets from the funds, he has to sell at least £200,000 worth of investments before he can even cover his expenses.

In a brief visit, this is quite a tall order, so it's no wonder that many of them pressure you into making a quick decision.

Naturally, a better way of getting financial advice would be if you could simply pay a straight fee in return for straight advice, no commissions would be involved and you could be sure that you could trust your adviser since he would lose business if his advice was consistently poor.

Services
Unfortunately, such services are not widely available. However, there is one other thing to consider: financial advisers are not Supermen, they just know a lot more about the subject than you do. If you learn as much as you can about finances then you will narrow that knowledge gap and will be much more difficult to fool. After all, it's your money, you worked hard for it, and you should be prepared to work just as hard to make it grow.

Sterling in markets' limelight

Dollar outlook clouded

LONDON, March 13, (Reuter): Suddenly, last week, Britain took central stage in global currency and stock markets.

Huge sums poured into British bank accounts and British bonds, which pay high interest rates, a flow which sent the pound sterling skyrocketing and the dollar down.

Dip
Investors, who have spent the last five months since the crash of 87 worrying about US trade and budget deficits, now have a few questions to mull — whether the pound's climb will continue and what that might mean for the dollar.

And at the root of that question are two others that the sharp dip and rise in oil prices this month have raised again for the rest of the world — whether inflation will rise and whether worldwide trade imbalances are really coming down.

The answers are still up in the air. But they may not be as gloomy as some dealers in currencies and shares have feared.

Deficit
"Economic and current account trends are being viewed more favourably. The US economy is doing significantly better than expected a while ago," said Leonard Gleske, member of the board of West Germany's Central Bank.

"It must show up in the markets somehow. I'm more on the confident side," Gleske told Reuters at a weekend conference of currency dealers in Munich.

One key test will be the US trade deficit figure for January, which will be reported on Thursday. The drop in the monthly

deficit, from a record \$17.6 billion from October to \$13.2 billion for November and \$12.2 billion for December, has boosted the dollar.

It has also heartened dealers on European and Asian stock markets, who have seen share prices remain depressed as investors worry that companies will lose still more sales in the United States.

If the deficit comes down again, the dollar should rise. But nobody really wants to bet on that.

Investors
"We cannot expect the deficit to fall \$1 billion every month," said Rolf Sexauer, senior currency officer at Deutsche Bank AG.

Besides trade imbalances, investors are worried about inflation. The price of gold, seen by many as a good way of keeping their wealth from being eroded by rising prices, climbed \$5 an ounce last week to approach \$442.

Dealers and investors are still trying to evaluate uncertain signals from the oil markets — where the price of Brent crude oil from the North Sea and this month dropped a dollar a barrel to a low \$13.75 and then last Thursday and Friday soared to end the week at \$15.

Trend
The question is whether Opec can, or will, do anything about a worldwide glut by cutting production — a step that could mean lower revenues for oil producers and higher inflation for the rest of the world.

A rise in oil prices also alters global trade balances. Against that, dealers and

investors must weigh Friday's report that US wholesale prices fell in February while US retail prices rose less sharply than they had forecast.

Those figures, said Joseph Liro, an economist at SG Warburg Securities in New York, "put us back into a murky environment where we can't find a discernible trend for the economy."

And, meanwhile, there is still the question of the pound.

This week British Chancellor the Exchequer Nigel Lawson presents a new budget in which he must balance the need to keep Britain's post-crash economy humming against his worries about inflation.

A lower pound makes the first much easier to achieve, especially since a stubbornly large British trade deficit suggests exporters still have room to expand. But the lower interest needed to slow sterling's rise risks inflation by sparking a consumer spending boom.

Higher
"While the chancellor refuses to cut interest rates, the only question is, how do you like your trade deficit, sir — with or without inflation?" wrote columnist Brian Reading in London's Sunday Times.

The government's concern about inflation, he argued, is keeping interest rates higher than they should be. And, as the pound soars British companies' goods are priced off foreign markets.

"The economy is not sick. Far from it. It is so rudely healthy, relative to other countries, that everybody wants to lend Britain money," said Reading.

Wall Street's merger fever will continue despite cooling: analysts

NEW YORK, March 13, (Reuter): Wall Street's merger fever cooled a few degrees last week, but analysts believe it is too early to say it is burning out.

But just as rumours of takeovers in the works had been sending some share prices soaring, new rumours last week that more arrests for trading on inside information about such deals led many investors to dump shares.

Some also wondered whether a slowdown in takeover battles signalled by news last Thursday that Forstmann Little and Co., a private investment firm, dropped a bid to buy glass-maker AFG Industries Inc. for more than \$880 million.

Reason
Speculating on mergers has been a big reason for a rise in share prices on Wall Street, as on several European bourses, since the start of the year.

Last week's sell off of takeover-linked shares was a key factor keeping Wall Street shares under pressure.

"Everybody's being cautious. The crash is still in the back of everybody's mind," said one arbitrator, who asked not to be named.

Traders were kept on tenterhooks by rumours, unsubstantiated by any official source, that arrests for insider dealing were coming next.

The US attorney in New York said no indictments were imminent.

ent. Traders had been nervous since the February 13 arrest of John Mulberer, founder of Jamie Securities, on weapons charges linked to threats against a witness in a grand jury investigation of alleged insider trading violations growing out of the Ivan Boesky affair.

Boesky has been fined \$100 million for violations of US securities laws.

"It's almost the same kind of market we saw pre-October 19 and pre-Boesky, where rumours drove it up and rumours drove it quickly down," said an investment banker. Last October 19, "Black Monday", was the day Wall Street's benchmark Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 508 points, or 22.6 per cent.

Fears that the takeover bubble had burst were heightened by Forstmann Little's decision to drop its AFG bid on Thursday.

But analysts do not believe the AFG bid was dropped by Forstmann because of a change in the economic environment, or that it would affect other deals.

Deal
"What you saw Thursday was a lot of stories, and there was a broken deal — a big broken deal," said one arbitrator — a trader who specialises in buying or selling shares of takeover targets.

And, in fact, yet another takeover bid emerged. Television producer Burt Sugarman said he

aims to buy Media General Inc., publisher of the Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch, despite a company charter and Virginia state laws that give the company unusual protection against takeovers.

Some analysts see this as the first of a new series of hostile bids.

"Unfriendly deals seem to have become socially acceptable," said William Riskin, co-head of Mergers and Acquisitions at Salomon Brothers Inc.

"But I would also say that most investment bankers advise their clients it's better to be friendly," he added.

Attractive
Meanwhile, analysts say, a weak dollar makes US companies an especially attractive buy for foreigners.

Tyremaker Pirelli SpA of Italy has bid \$1.86 billion for Firestone Tire and Rubber Co., while Beazer Plc of Britain is offering \$1.27 billion for Pittsburgh building material maker Koppers Co. Inc.

"There is a level of activity that we did not see in all of 1987," said Lawrence Lavine, senior vice-president of Mergers and Acquisitions at Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette.

"The acceptability in the corporate board room of making a hostile bid has increased dramatically as the attractiveness (of targets) increased," he said.

Saudi British Bank posts loss after boosting provisions

RIYADH, March 13, (Reuter): Saudi British Bank reported today a 1987 loss of 4.4 million riyals (\$1.2 million) after boosting provisions against bad and doubtful loans.

Saudi British, the sixth of nine joint-venture banks in the kingdom to report 1987 figures and the first to record a loss for the year, said it set aside 42.7 million riyals (\$11.4 million) in loan loss provisions.

The Riyadh-based bank said the new reserves increased total coverage to 10.5 per cent of outstanding advances compared with 8.2 per cent in 1986 and 6.1 per cent in 1985.

Saudi British had reported 1986 net profit of 8.6 million riyals (\$2.3 million) and bankers said it had spent the last year consolidating its position and cutting overheads.

"While the bank reduced its level of advances, which reflected the overall market trend, it took advantage of this period of consolidation to further restructure its credit management systems kingdom-wide," it said in a statement.

Saudi British, like most banks operating in the kingdom, had been hit by non-performing loans to local private companies following the decline in oil prices in the 1980s.

Arab world owns more than half the world's oil reserves

Experts to discuss energy cooperation

LOOMING oil shortages in poorer Arab states and a sharp drop in income among wealthier countries due to falling oil prices top concerns at today's Arab energy conference in Baghdad.

The Arab world collectively owns more than half the world's known crude oil reserves and boasts several of the world's biggest oil exporters.

But some Arab states such as Morocco and Sudan must import petrol and other oil products at great cost and others may have to do so soon.

Efforts
"It is imperative that efforts be directed toward enhancing coordination between the Arab countries," said the March bulletin of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), one of several pan-Arab groups that organised the conference.

Opec says total Arab refining capacity totalled 274 million tonnes per year in 1987, more than enough to meet total demand for refined products of some 180 million tonnes.

But the refineries are on

average only three-quarters used, and many poorer Arab states must import.

"The focus of the main refineries is to export to foreign markets," Opec acting secretary-general Abdel Aziz Al Wattari said last week. "This picture must be altered through creation of a common Arab market."

Papers at the conference will examine ways to distribute refined products and gas to have-not states, improve refinery utilisation and boost output of lighter products such as petrol and diesel.

The conference will also examine alternatives such as solar and nuclear energy which Wattari said are essential if the Arabs are to meet energy demand in the next century.

Products
Opec says Arab demand for refined products will grow at an average of five per cent annually through the year 2000 when it will almost double to 339 million tonnes.

By that time, experts warn, some of the smaller oil producers

like Egypt will no longer be able to meet home demand.

Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Libya all have nuclear power programmes under study, the last three with Soviet help. But Wattari told reporters development of an Arab nuclear power industry faced determined resistance from Israel and the West.

Consumption
He also said the Arabs must rationalise energy consumption and cut subsidies that encourage it.

Noting conservation efforts in the West, he said: "We in the Arab world should be no less concerned with managing demand. For some it has become a necessity."

The oil ministers of Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar and Algeria — all members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) — are scheduled to speak and officials said Kuwait's Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa would lead a roundtable discussion on the world oil market.

Opec succeeded in pinning world oil prices at around \$18 a

barrel for most of 1987 through production restraint after a 1986 collapse in the market.

But since the beginning of 1988 oil prices have slumped by up to \$4 a barrel and some Opec states have called for an emergency meeting of its price committee.

"Low prices and the instability of markets have slashed Arab oil revenues from \$200 billion in 1980 to \$50 billion in recent years," Opec says. "This has had a devastating impact on development."

Opec officials expect informal consultations between the Arab oil ministers. But most of them oppose any immediate Opec action to shore up the market, believing that oil prices will firm on their own in the coming months, analysts say.

Previous Arab energy conferences were held in Abu Dhabi in 1979, Doha in 1982 and Algiers in 1985.

Secretary-General of the Arab League Chadi Klibi arrived here last night to attend the conference.

China announces foreign trade reforms

BEIJING, March 13, (AP): China today announced foreign trade reforms that will give greater local autonomy to companies moving into international markets.

The State Council, China's cabinet, said the nation will introduce a contract system under which the power to handle most import and export commodities will be transferred to local foreign trade companies and certain well-managed industrial enterprises.

The official Xinhua news agency said areas and cities enjoying special status as foreign trade centres will be able to sign contracts with the state for the amount of hard currency they are

obliged to turn over to the state. Following introduction of the system, China will reduce mandatory state quotas for exports and the number of state-handled export commodities.

Commodities
National Export and Import Corporations will handle only a small amount of commodities. Instead, their branches will become independent managerial entities run by local governments.

Xinhua said the new foreign trade structure encourages local authorities and export-oriented enterprises to participate in international competition.

The report said China this year will also reform its foreign

exchange managerial structure. Local governments, enterprises and institutions and foreign-funded businesses will be allowed to exchange their retained hard currency through government-run exchange centres.

It said China's coastal areas will be encouraged to develop export-oriented industries by expanding labour and expertise-intensive industries.

Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang has proposed significant increases in the number of coastal regions given preferential treatment in developing foreign trade as a means of helping China make greater inroads in world markets.

Meanwhile, a senior Chinese

trade official said in Kuwait yesterday that trade exchange between Kuwait and China reached a level of \$40 million last year.

At a press conference, Chiwy Dayo, deputy president of the Chinese Council for International Trade, said that Kuwait exported to China last year 430,000 tonnes of chemical fertilisers, while China exported many goods and merchandise topped by clothes and textiles which constituted 60 per cent of the whole exports.

On commercial exchange between China and the Gulf countries, the Chinese official said trade witnessed an increase last year in comparison with the year before.

Dayo is visiting Kuwait to attend the opening of the Chinese products exhibition scheduled for today.

He said that the exhibition, at which 25 Chinese companies will display their products, will be opened for the public until March 23 at the special hall of Kuwait International Fair Ground.

Textiles, canned food, medical equipments, measurement tools, and many other light products will be available for businessmen and private citizens to examine and purchase if they wish.

This exhibition is the second for China in Kuwait, according to Dayo. The first, he added, was held in 1976.

KD rates hold '88 lows

KUWAITI dinar deposit rates held to 1988 lows yesterday in quiet trading with one-month funds falling 1/4 point from Saturday levels and other maturities steady.

Dealers
Dealers said liquidity remained high from three-month Treasury bills that matured in the last two weeks. The absence of new bill issues this week and unmet demand for last week's issues also kept rates low, they said.

One-month dealt at 2-1/2 per cent from three per cent levels on

Saturday but few or no deals were reported in other maturities.

The short rates were again well offered at 1/4 per cent while dealers quoted 2-3/4, 1/2 per cent for the one-month, 4-1/8, 3-3/4 per cent for the three-month, 4-5/8, 1/8 per cent for the six-month and five, 4-5/8 per cent for the one-year.

The Central Bank dinar exchange rate was unchanged from Saturday's 0.27396/406 to the dollar. Commercial banks quoted spot rates of around 0.27400/05.

KUWAIT	AMMAN
BANK SECTOR	OPNG CLSG
NATIONAL BANK	ALA-ADDIN COMPANY
GULF BANK	ARAB ALUMINUM IND.
COMMERCIAL BK	ARAB BANK
ANLI BANK	ARAS-CHEMICAL DTER
B.K.H.E.	ARAB FINANCE CORP.
K.R.E.B.	ARAB INSURANCE
BURGAN BANK	ARAB INT. INV/TRAN.
K.F. HOUSE	ARAB INT. UNION INS
INVESTMENT SECTOR	ARAB INTER. HOTELS
KWT INV. CO.	ARAB JOR/INVEST/JSK
K.F.T.C.I.C.	ARAB PAPER COM/TRA
K.I.I.C.	ARAB PHARMA/MANF.
COM-FACILITIES	ARAB PHARMA/CHEM
ANLIAN INV.	ARAB POTASH CO.
I.F.A.	ARABIAN SEAS. INS.
INV. PEARL KWT	BANK OF JORDAN
INSURANCE SECTOR	BELGIUM INSURANCE
KWT INSURANCE	CAIRO AMMAN BANK
GULF INSURANCE	DAR AL SHAAS PRESS
ANLIAN INS. CO.	DAR ALDAHA DV/INV.
MARSA INS. CO.	DARCO/INVEST/NOV.
REAL EST SECTOR	FINANCE/CREDIT/CO
KWT R.E.S.T.	GARAGE OWNERS OFF
UNI R.E.S.T. CO.	GENERAL INSURANCE
NAT R.E.S.T. CO.	GENERAL INVESTMENT
SALHIAH R.E.	GENERAL MINING
KWT PROJECTS	NIPHER MINERALS
KWT R.E.I. COM	HOLY LAND INS.
INDUSTRY SECTOR	IND/PLANT JEMCO
NAT IND. CO.	INDUSTRIAL DEVLPT
KWT M.P. IND.	INDUSTRIAL/COM/AGR.
KWT CEMENT CO.	INDUSTRIAL INVEST.
REF. IND. CO.	INTERN. COM. INV.
N.A.M.T. CO.	IRSID ELECTRICITY
GULF CABLE	ISLAND INV. HOUSE
PH. IND. CO.	ITERMED/PETRI/CH
COMT-MARINE	J. TOUR-SP CONY.
K. SN. REP. CO.	JERUSALEM INS.
SERVICES SECTOR	JO TOBACCO/CIGARET
OVERLAND TRANS	JOR CERAMIC FACTOR
K.N.C. CO.	JOR EAGLE INS.
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FARWANIYA, near Holiday Inn. One bedroom for a Mangalorean bachelor to share with a family. Tel. 4746536, after 5.30 pm. (AT3-M/Y-3)

IN Kuwait City, behind Sheraton Hotel. Two bedrooms with electricity for Goan bachelors to share with an Indian. Rent KD30. Tel. Mr. Augustine, Al-Sahel Sari Store, 2402867, from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm. (AT1-41355-3)

SALMIYA, Mogira Street, Building No 2, near Indian School, room with water, electricity and tele. facilities for an Indian, easy access to all bus routes. Rent negotiable. Tel. Eric Almeida 5650466, after 5.30 pm. (AT2-41361-2)

IN Farwaniya, near Holiday Inn. One room for a bachelor to share with a Goan bachelor. Bus routes 21, 22, 39, Rent KD30 with electricity and water. Tel. Linda, 2420550, from 9 am to 12.30 pm. (AT1-41357-3)

IN Salwa, House 196, Block 7, behind Iraqi shop. Two big rooms with all facilities, for a family/bachelors to share with an Indian family. Bus routes 34, 102. Rent KD50 each. Tel. 5611243. (AT2-41367-6)

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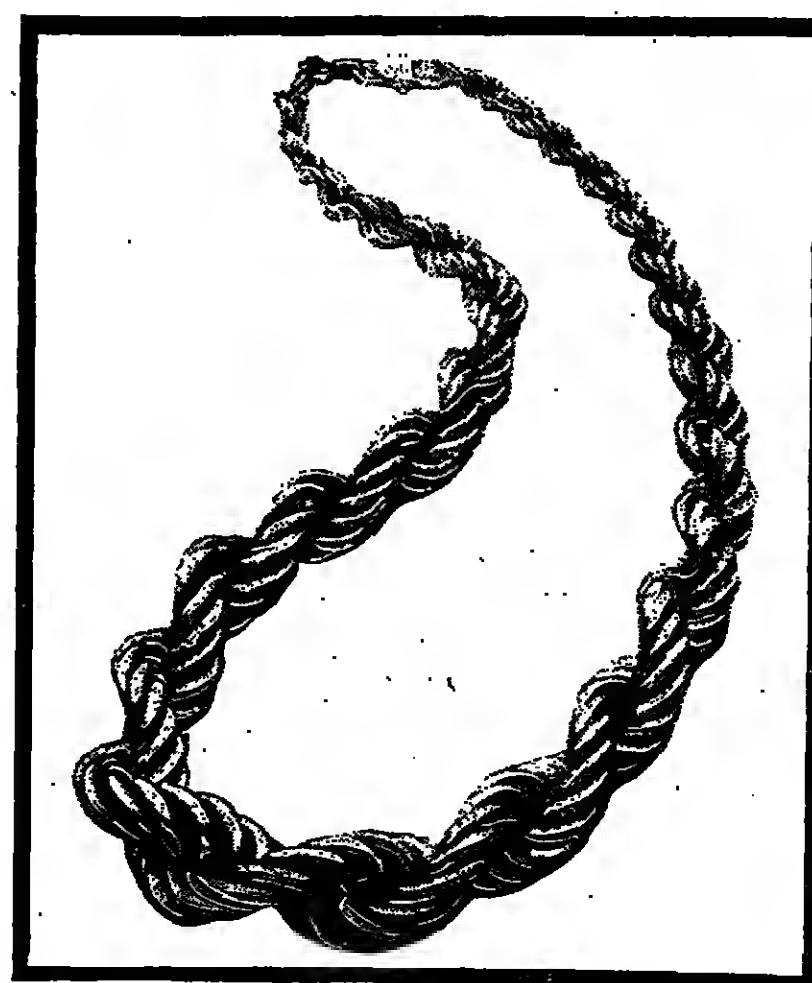
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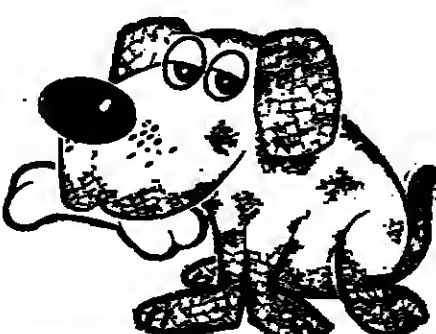
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کشمیر میں بھگت کے سبب اموات کے ساتھ تحقیقات شروع

سرکاری حکام کے مطابق حجازی دہاک اور سو کے ایک ہجڑہ کے قتل کے سبب

کشمیر ۱۳ مارچ (پا)۔ خیالی دارا حکومت کشمیر میں بھگت کے سبب اموات کے ساتھ تحقیقات شروع کر دی ہیں۔ سرکاری حکام کے مطابق حجازی دہاک اور سو کے ایک ہجڑہ کے قتل کے سبب

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افغان مجاہدین کی طرف سے وفد بھیجا جائیگا کاماکن

یونس خاں کے استعفیٰ کے بعد سرگرمی کے ساتھ افغان مجاہدین کی طرف سے وفد بھیجا جائیگا کاماکن

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لیبیائی اقتدار کی رسد کشی کے بارے میں خبروں کی تردید

کشمیر ۱۳ مارچ (پا)۔ لیبیائی دارا حکومت نے لیبیائی اقتدار کی رسد کشی کے بارے میں خبروں کی تردید کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ لیبیائی دارا حکومت نے لیبیائی اقتدار کی رسد کشی کے بارے میں خبروں کی تردید کرتے ہوئے

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عراق کا تہران پر بمباری حملہ

کشمیر ۱۳ مارچ (پا)۔ عراق نے تہران پر بمباری حملہ کیا۔

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رام اللہ کے قریب اسرائیلی بس پر پتھروں بم کا حملہ

کشمیر ۱۳ مارچ (پا)۔ رام اللہ کے قریب اسرائیلی بس پر پتھروں بم کا حملہ کیا گیا۔

بانی جیکوبینہ رورسے جی طیارے میں پتھروں کے جلنے کی بجائے

کشمیر ۱۳ مارچ (پا)۔ بانی جیکوبینہ رورسے جی طیارے میں پتھروں کے جلنے کی بجائے

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کشمیر ۱۳ مارچ (پا)۔ سکھ انتہاپنڈوں کے حملوں میں ۸ افراد ہلاک ہوئے۔

بنان میں بیسائی لیبیا کے دو افسرانہ معلوم افراد کی فائرنگ سے ہلاک

کشمیر ۱۳ مارچ (پا)۔ بنان میں بیسائی لیبیا کے دو افسرانہ معلوم افراد کی فائرنگ سے ہلاک ہوئے۔

بھگت دیش کو اسلامی جمہوریہ بنانے کے مطالبے کی حمایت میں مظاہرہ

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عراق کا تہران پر بمباری حملہ

کشمیر ۱۳ مارچ (پا)۔ عراق نے تہران پر بمباری حملہ کیا۔

مقبوضہ عرب علاقوں میں فلسطینی مظاہرین پر اسرائیلی پولیس کا لاشی چارج

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AMBROSE MAKES STUNNING DEBUT

West Indies brush aside Pakistan

KINGSTON, Jamaica, March 13. (Reuters) The depth and quality of fast bowling in the Caribbean was again underlined by an outstanding performance from newcomer Curtley Ambrose which clinched West Indies' 47-run win in their one-day match against Pakistan yesterday.

Ambrose, making his international debut, captured four for 39 in his 10 overs as Imran Khan's Pakistan made 194 for seven in reply to the West Indies' 241 for four from their 46 overs in the opening game of the five-match series.

Shared Ambrose, a 24-year-old Antiguan, made a stunning start when he shared the new ball with Patrick Patterson by removing openers Rameez Raja and Shoaib Mohammad in his first and second overs.

Rameez tried to hook Ambrose's third delivery and the ball flew off the under edge of the bat and onto the stumps, while Shoaib was beaten and bowled by a fine delivery in the Antiguan's next over.

Ambrose completed his damaging debut by later claiming the crucial wickets of Javed Miandad, top scorer with 47, and



Logie: Man of the Match

Imran in consecutive overs. The Antiguan paceman, who started playing competitively only three years ago, uses his height of six feet six inches to obtain considerable lift in much the same way as Joel Garner, and

Ambrose also employs a yorker as effectively as the former Barbadian Test paceman. Ambrose took a record 35 wickets in five matches during his first full domestic season just ended — a performance for

which he was presented with the Most Valuable Player award before the international match here.

His match-winning bowling could scarcely have been more timely with Malcolm Marshall due to miss the first four one-day games with a knee injury.

Equally heartening for a West Indian side in a transition period after the retirement from the international scene of Garner, Michael Holding and Larry Gomes was Gus Logie's first century in one-day internationals.

Logie, named Man of the Match, hit a superb 109 not out with 10 fours from 119 balls. His previous highest at this level was 88 against Australia in 1984.

Logie and Richie Richardson, who made a forceful 84, lifted West Indies from 25 for two with a third-wicket stand of 187 in 38.3 overs to the delight of a capacity 15,000 crowd at Sabina Park.

Imran, who won the toss, struck the early blows by dismissing openers Desmond Haynes and Phil Simmons and ended with three for 36 in his first bowl in a major game since his brief retirement after the World Cup ended last November.

The second one-day international is here on Tuesday.

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES

D. Haynes b Imran 0
P. Simmons c Rameez b Imran 15
R. Richardson b Jaffer 84
G. Logie not out 109
V. Richards b Imran 15
C. Hooper not out 1
Extras (b-3 lb-10 w-1 nb-3) 17
Total (four wickets, 46 overs) 241
Fall of wickets: 1-0 2-25 3-212 4-236

Did not bat: J. Dujon, W. Benjamin, C. Walsh, P. Patterson, C. Ambrose.
Bowling: Imran 8-1-36-3, Jaffer 10-1-55-1 (nb-1), Anjum 10-1-37-0 (w-1 nb-1), Zakir 10-0-54-0 (nb-1), Tauseef 5-0-28-0, Shoaib 3-0-18-0.

PAKISTAN

Rameez Raja b Ambrose 5
Shoaib Mohammad b Ambrose 3
Salim Malik b Walsh 20
Miandad c Richards b Ambrose 47
Ejaz Ahmed run out 39
Imran Khan b Ambrose 7
Naved Anjum not out 17
Salim Yousaf c Logie b Patterson 11
Zakir Khan not out 35
Extras (b-10 lb-12 w-9 nb-4) 35
Total (seven wickets, 46 overs) 194
Fall of wickets: 1-7 2-8 3-55 4-131 5-145 6-146 7-163

Did not bat: Tauseef Ahmed, Salim Jaffer.
Bowling: Patterson 10-2-21-1 (nb-4 w-1), Ambrose 10-1-30-4, Walsh 10-1-37-1 (w-4), Benjamin 10-1-34-0, Richards 5-1-30-0, Hooper 1-0-11-0.

Hadlee named vice-captain for Sharjah

WELLINGTON, March 13. (Reuters) Fast bowler Richard Hadlee, who has appeared only briefly against England because of a calf injury, was named vice-captain of the New Zealand team today for the Sharjah Cup tournament.

Hadlee, needing one wicket to pull ahead of England all-rounder Ian Botham as Test cricket's leading wicket-taker, was injured at the start of the first Test on February 12. He missed the remainder of the series and the opening two one-day internationals.

He was also left out of the side announced today for the third one-day international in Napier on Wednesday but may return for the final limited-over match in Auckland next Saturday to prove his fitness for the Sharjah Cup.

New Zealand made two changes for the match in Napier, bringing in medium-fast bowler Danny Morrison and batsman Robert Vance in place of off-spinner John Bracewell and opening batsman Richard Reid.

Bracewell pulled out for personal reasons, but is available for the final game in Auckland. Reid has been axed after scores of eight in each of the first two one-day games which were both won by England.

Four players — John Bracewell, Martin Snedden and the Crowe Brothers, Martin and Jeff — were unavailable for the Sharjah Cup which starts on March 25 and also includes India and Sri Lanka.

Team for the third one-day international against England in Napier on Wednesday: John Wright (captain), Robert Vance, Andrew Jones, Martin Crowe, Mark Greatbatch, Ken Rutherford, Chris Kugelejin, Ian Smith, Martin Snedden, Willie Watson, Danny Morrison, Ewen Chatfield.

Squad for Sharjah Cup: John Wright (captain), Richard Hadlee (vice-captain), Tony Blair, Ewen Chatfield, Mark Greatbatch, Andrew Jones, Chris Kugelejin, Danny Morrison, Dipak Patel, Ken Rutherford, Ian Smith, Robert Vance, Willie Watson.

NSW defeat Victoria

SYDNEY, March 13. (Reuters) Scores in the McDonald's Cup 50-over cricket match here today:

Victoria 180 for seven (D. Whitham 37, J. Siddons 37, P. Taylor three for 26), New South Wales 184 for five (G. Smith 58 not out, S. Hokey 33, P. Jackson three for 45). New South Wales won by five wickets.

Budd third in Belgian race

BRUSSELS, March 13. (Ghana) Britain's controversial South Africa-born runner Zola Budd finished third in a five-kilometre international cross-country race in Bierbeek yesterday.

This was her last major race before competing in the World Cross-country Championships set for March 26 in Auckland, New Zealand. She clocked 19 minutes and one second.

Angela Tooby from Cardiff, Britain won the race in 18 minutes and 29 seconds, followed by Veronique Collard of Belgium who covered the distance in 18:58.

Australia outplay Pakistan for Cup

ADELAIDE, March 13. (Reuters) Opener Brett Williams struck a superb century that carried Australia to a five-wicket win over Pakistan in the World Cup youth cricket final today, and emulated the senior team's success.

Australia triumphed in the World Cup final in Calcutta last November, and their young cricketers showed similar prowess at the limited overs game, winning eight of their nine tournament matches.

Dismissed

They swept to success in the final with 25 deliveries to spare after Williams hammered 108 out of Australia's 202 for five. Pakistan were dismissed for 201 in 49.3 of their quota of 50 overs.

Williams completed his half

century from 49 deliveries and reached three figures in 119 balls, with seven fours and two sixes. He survived a chance on 92 when he was dropped by Zulfiqar Ali at backward square leg off Mush-taq Ahmed.

Australian coach Jack Potter said: "Williams played a superb innings to make 100 in a final and under so much pressure. He's the sort of player who, if he survives the first couple of overs, will win the match for you."

Pakistan failed to capitalise on a useful start — they were 125 for three on stage — in which four of the first five batsmen became established but none was able to go on to play a long innings. Imzammul Haq was top scorer with 37, while captain Zahoor Elahi slammed 35 from 28 deliveries.

Australia's combative nutcracker was a significant factor in restricting Pakistan's progress, and Potter said: "Our boys fielded very well when it looked like Pakistan were going to post a huge score after the first 20 overs."

Geoff Parker, who took three for 36 in his 10 overs, and Wayne Holdsworth, with three for 38 from 9.3, shared the bowling honours.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN
Shahid Awar c Pyle b Mullyally 8
Basil Ali b w b Parker 23
Zahoor Elahi c Holdsworth b Mullyally 35
Shahid Nawaz c Berry b Parker 35
Imzammul Haq c Ferguson b Holdsworth 37
Mohammad Nawaz c Mullyally b Parker 14
Zulfiqar Butt b Holdsworth 19

Riffat Ali c Berry b Holdsworth 4
Mush-taq Ahmed run out 3
Zulfiqar Ali run out 3
Shakeel Khan not out 5
Extras (b-4 lb-1 w-5) 10
Total (49.3 overs) 201
Fall of wickets: 1-10 2-59 3-88 4-125 5-149 6-171 7-183 8-186 9-186

Bowling: Holdsworth 9.3-1-38-3 (lb), Mullyally 10-1-53-2 (3w), Scuderi 10-0-38-0, Parker 10-0-36-3 (1w), Tucker 10-0-32-0 (1w).
AUSTRALIA
B. Williams c Ahmed b Butt 108
D. Pyle c R. Ali b Haq 12
S. Law c Elahi b Haq 44
L. Ferguson b Ahmed 9
G. Parker c b Ahmed 10
H. Armstrong not out 7
J. Scuderi not out 3
Extras (b-1 nb-1 w-7) 9
Total (five wickets - 45.5 overs) 202
Fall of wickets: 1-34 2-131 3-167 4-192 5-192

Bowling: Khan 6-0-21-0 (1w), Z. Ali 3-0-19-0, Haq 6-5-28-1 (3w), Awar 10-0-41-1 (1w), Ahmed 10-0-59-2 (3w), Butt 10-1-33-1.

Ferrari top week-long tyre tests

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 13. (Reuters) The Ferrari team dominated the week of tyre tests at Rio's 5.031 km race track in advance of the Brazilian Grand Prix, opening event of the Formula One season to be held here on April 3.

On the last day of tests yesterday no one beat the week's pace-setting time of one minute 28.05 seconds, established on Thursday by Ferrari's Austrian driver Gerhard Berger.

"The Ferraris are favourites to win in Rio. Their cars are ready," said former world champion Frenchman Alain Prost, who will be seeking his fourth victory in the Brazilian Grand Prix.

The best time of the day was set by Prost's new teammate in the McLaren team, Brazilian Ayrton Senna, with 1:30.05 seconds, his best performance of the week.

In overall, Italian Michele Alboreto, of Ferrari, closed the battery of tests as second fastest, with 1:29.23.

Overall leading lap times in the week of tests: 1. Gerhard Berger (Austria), Ferrari, one minute 28.05 seconds; 2. Michele Alboreto (Italy), Ferrari, 1:29.23; 3. Nigel Mansell (Britain), Williams, 1:29.65; 4. Thierry Boutsen (Belgium), Benetton, 1:29.66; 5. Alain Prost (France), McLaren, 1:29.86; 6. Ayrton Senna (Brazil), McLaren, 1:30.05; 7. Riccardo Patrese (Italy), Williams, 1:30.97; 8. Derek Warwick (Britain), Arrows, 1:31.50; 9. Alessandro Nannini (Italy), Benetton, 1:32.78; 10. Luis Perez Sala (Spain), Minardi, 1:39.92; 11. Adrian Campos (Spain), Minardi, 1:39.33.

Britain meet tough Pakistan

GREAT BRITAIN and Pakistan meet tomorrow in the British Airways Speedbird Trophy at the KOC New Ground, Ahmed. The match will start at 9.30 am.

Results in recent years suggest the Great Britain side, with the cream of the Hubara and Casuals players, will find it difficult to overcome a strong Pakistan side.

Changes The British XI will be lacking opening batsman Mike Dexter and opening bowler Mark Devereil from the side which defeated the Indian XI last November.

The Pakistan side shows several changes from the last year's match but their strength is unchanged. Both teams have the inherent

batting and bowling strengths to produce a highly exciting game. For example, Shipton, Flower, Talbot, James and Wells could be the scourge for any combination. Likewise, Haider, Amjad, Ishiaq and Razzak will most certainly match the Great Britain batting strength.

Pakistan's bowling combination of Sakhat, Naem, Ashraf and Riaz contains nine spinner as does Great Britain's attack of Anderson, Flower, Snowden, James and Bond. Bond helped Britain in their victory over the Indian XI with four wickets and could play a vital role in this match also.

John McConville keeps wicket again for Great Britain while Ghulam Sarwar dons the gloves

for Pakistan.

The organisers have asked for all the players to be present at the ground at 9.00 am to be presented to the British Ambassador to Kuwait, Peter Hinchcliffe.

Teams

Great Britain (from): Craig Shipton, Steve Anderson, Peter Bond, Simon Clements, Patrick Flower, Clive Greenwood, Jimmy James, Gerry Pallister, John McConville, Richard Snowden, David Talbot and Kevin Wells.

Pakistan XI (from): Ghulam Haider, Naem Ahmad, Isbaq, Abdul Razzak, Javed Masood, Ashraf Rana, Ghulam Sarwar, Abdul Wahid Malik, Amjad, Sakhat Ali, Ishiaq Ahmad, Raees Khan and Riaz Chaudhry.

Kelly keeps overall lead

MANDELIEU, France, March 13. (AP) Frenchman Patrice Esnault captured the fifth stage of the Paris-Nice cycling race yesterday, but Ireland's Sean Kelly went on to a seventh straight victory in the event by maintaining the overall lead.

Esnault made an attack with 37 kilometres left in the 167-kilometre stage from St Tropez to Mandelieu. He finished 10 seconds ahead of another Frenchman, Bruno Cornillet.

Kelly was next and managed to hold off the repeated attempts of France's Laurent Fignon and Pascal Simon to eat away at his small lead.

Fay attacks San Diego's rejection of Cup plan

AUCKLAND, March 13. (Reuters) Merchant banker Michael Fay, head of the New Zealand syndicate challenging for the America's Cup, said today the San Diego Yacht Club's rejection of his latest plan put the trophy at risk.

"The San Diego Yacht Club and Sail America seem incapable of taking the right decision about the Cup. The danger is that they are putting the Cup at risk," Fay said in a statement.

San Diego YC, who hold the Cup, yesterday rejected Fay's offer to postpone his September challenge in favour of a multi-

nation elimination series starting in February next year and culminating in a challenge to the holders in May 1989.

Thomas Ehaman of Sail America, the US syndicate handling San Diego YC's defence, said his organisation had "received input from challengers around the world," and "most have strongly urged us to turn down Fay's proposal."

But Fay said that by their action the Americans had "rejected the opportunity to create a multi-national America's Cup in boats of the 20th century in San Diego in 1989."

Ramirez outpoints Whitaker to retain title

PARIS, March 13. (AP) Mexican Jose Luis Ramirez retained his World Boxing Council light-weight crown yesterday with a controversial split decision over 1984 Olympic gold medalist Pernell Whitaker of the United States.

Whitaker appeared to have an easy time from the start and was peppering the champion with right jabs throughout the fight. He moved easily out of trouble but was missing combinations late in the fight after possibly breaking his left hand in the middle rounds.

Stay Although Ramirez kept trying to come in, he failed to score often and Whitaker was able to stay out of trouble most of the way. There were no knockdowns.

Judge Harry Gibbs of Britain scored it 117-113 in favour of Whitaker, which was in line with most ringside observers, including Angelo Dundee, who commented on the fight for ABC television. However Newton Campos of

Brazil had it 118-113 for Ramirez and Louis Michel of France had it 116-115 in Ramirez' favour, giving the Mexican his second title defence since winning back the lightweight title last July.

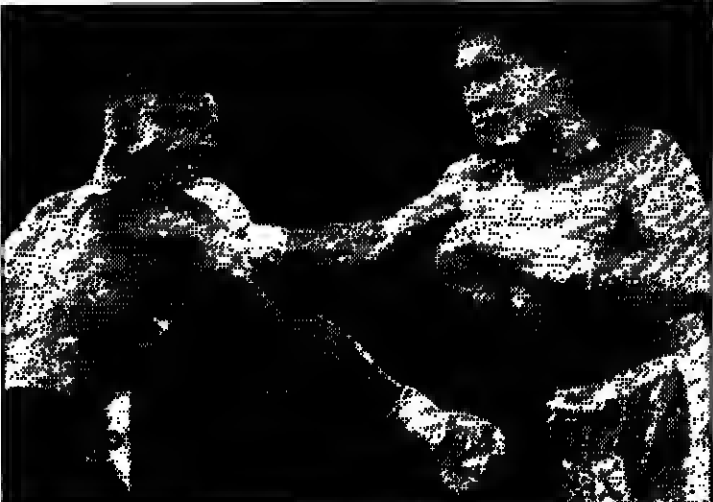
"I had Whitaker by five points on my cards," said Dundee. "But the aggressiveness may have played a part. The Latin judges love that aggressiveness."

Whitaker thus lost his first professional bout in 16 outings since turning pro in November, 1984. Ramirez is 101-6 in a professional career that started when he was 14.

Whitaker started the fight moving constantly to his right while finding the range with his right jab. Ramirez was coming in but missing as Whitaker scored combinations throughout the first four rounds.

In the middle rounds, Ramirez kept coming in and was able to slow Whitaker a bit, sometimes connecting with a short right hook.

However Whitaker was able to score with combinations of his



Ramirez (right) lands a right to Whitaker's jaw. (Reuters wirephoto)

own, as he suddenly stopped and landed crosses and uppercuts.

But shortly after the sixth round, Whitaker was clinching more and preferring not to "stick and jab" as manager Lou Duva kept imploring him in his corner.

The break of his left hand, and old injury, slowed Whitaker and

Ramirez was able to catch up with him occasionally, but still not enough to turn the fight in the Mexican's direction.

"I thought I had a shutout," Whitaker said after the fight. "I just wanted to get past the sixth round and then win just two after that."



Chesnokov: first title this year

Chesnokov surprises Mecir to capture Orlando Classic title

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida, March 13. (UPI) Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union upset second-seeded Czechoslovak Miloslav Mecir 7-6, (8-6), 6-1 yesterday to win the \$415,000 Orlando Tennis Classic.

Chesnokov, 22, saved three set points in the opening set as Mecir produced a series of unforced errors at critical moments.

Serve

Mecir, who had beaten Chesnokov in both of their previous encounters, broke the Soviet player's serve in the third game of the opening set.

Serving for the set at 5-4, Mecir missed his first set point as he sunk a backhand drive into the net. In the tiebreaker, Mecir, ranked seventh in the world, gained another pair of set points when a backhand error by Chesnokov gave the Czechoslovak a 6-4 in lead.

But with the set apparently in his grasp, Mecir then hit four consecutive unforced errors, the last three on the forehand side, to hand the set to Chesnokov.

"I was a little slower than yesterday," said Mecir, 23, "and I couldn't finish the set. Andrei didn't miss many balls and was very fast. He's always played well when I played him and today he played even better."

With the first set under his belt,

Sabatini stuns Evert for first time to reach final

BOCA RATON, Fla., March 13. (Reuters) Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina beat Chris Evert for the first time yesterday to earn a meeting with top seed Steffi Graf in the final of the \$300,000 Florida women's tennis tournament.

Graf fought off a match point to defeat third-seeded Pam Shriver of the United States 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 and fourth-seeded Sabatini upset Evert, the second seed, 6-1, 7-5 in a gruelling baseline duel.

Career

It was the 17-year-old Argentine's first victory over the 33-year-old American in six career meetings.

Graf, ranked first in the world, saved match point at 30-40 on her serve in the tenth game of the third set with a volley winner. Shriver held off nine break points to keep the third set on serve into the tiebreak.

Graf jumped out to a 3-1 lead in the tiebreak, but Shriver, attacking relentlessly, battled back to lead 4-3. The 18-year-old West German then hit three forehand winners to go up 6-4 and eventually closed out the match on her second match point with a winning volley.



Sabatini: scored an upset win

Graf, who recovered from a 2-4 deficit to win the first set, said she did not play her best tennis but played aggressively when it mattered.

"On the match point, I took a risk and came to the net. It gave me confidence being aggressive today, because I didn't play my best. But even though it wasn't my best, I won," said Graf, who has lost only two matches in the last 15 months.

Marathon race

OTSU, Japan, March 13. (Reuters) Toshihiko Seko, 31, winner of the Boston Marathon in 1981 and 1987, easily won Japan's last Olympic qualifying Marathon today.

But the victory did not guarantee him an Olympic place because of the slow time of two hours 12 minutes 41 seconds.

Japanese officials will decide next week whether Seko will run in the Seoul Games later this year.

Bogey

Sindelar, who has won three tournaments on the tour, had five birdies and only one bogey. He has had only two bogeys all week and that is a little unusual for him.

He said with a laugh: "I usually go birdie, eagle, double bogey, but I'm playing very well right now, good solid relaxed golf."

Gonzalez sets new mark

OVIEDO, Spain, March 13. (AP) Jose Luis Gonzalez set a new Spanish record in the 3,000-metre run during an indoor track and field international event yesterday.

Gonzalez set the Spanish record in a time of 7:47.54. His old record was 7:49.54.

Calvin Smith of the United States comfortably won the 200-metre event in 21.50, followed by his countryman Clarence Daniel in 21.64.

NBA ROUNDUP

Thomas leads Pistons past Cavaliers

PONTIAC, Mich., March 13. (AP) Isiah Thomas scored four points in the final 1:46 and made a crucial steal with nine seconds left last night to lead the Detroit Pistons to a club record-tying 15th straight home-court NBA victory, 104-100 over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Brad Daugherty scored 24 points, including 16 in the second half, for Cleveland, which has lost eight of its last 11 games. The Pistons, who have won 10 of their last 12 games, opened a three-game lead over second-place Atlanta in the Central Division.

Two free throws by Daugherty pulled Cleveland within 100-98 with 59 seconds left and the Cavaliers later had a chance to tie the game but Thomas stripped the ball from Mark Price with nine seconds left, was fouled and made two free throws for a 102-98 lead.

Knicks 108, Jazz 105

Gerald Wilkins scored 22 points and Patrick Ewing 21 as New York held on despite blowing all but one of a 22-point third-quarter lead.

Mark Jackson added 18 points and 11 assists for the Knicks, who have won 14 of their last 15 games at Madison Square Garden. Karl Malone had 31 points and 15 rebounds and Thurl Bailey scored 24 points for Utah, which lost for only the second time in eight games.

The victory enabled the Knicks to break a third-place tie with idle Philadelphia in the Atlantic Division. They also pulled within one game of Washington in the race for the eighth and final playoff berth in the Eastern Conference.

New York, leading by 18 at halftime, extended the margin in 68-46 with 10:10 left in the third quarter. With the Knicks leading 104-103, Ewing drove past Mark Eaton on the baseline for a dunk with 46 seconds remaining, then rebounded a miss by Bailey 11 seconds later.

Bulls 112, Spurs 92

Michael Jordan scored 13 of his 28 points in the third quarter as Chicago handed San Antonio its sixth straight loss. The Spurs, who wasted 29 points by Walter Berry, have lost eight straight road games. The Bulls have won four straight at home and are 24-9 at Chicago Stadium.

Chicago broke open a close game in the second quarter. Trailing 30-27 late in the first period, the Bulls started a 12-0 run and led 57-49 at halftime. The Spurs, who shot 58 per cent in the first quarter, made just nine of 32 shots in the second period.

Dave Corzine added 19 points, all the first three quarters, and Charles Oakley had 16 for the Bulls. San Antonio got 21 from Greg Anderson and 16 from John Dawkins. The Spurs' leading scorer Alvin Robertson, bothered by a bruised thigh, was held to six points.

Sindelar takes one-stroke golf lead

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla., March 13. (Reuters) American Joey Sindelar shot a four-under-par 68 yesterday to slip past a faltering Ben Brown of Britain for the third-round lead in the \$700,000 Coral Springs men's golf tournament.

Sindelar had a total of 10-under-par 206 on the eagle course to head into today's final round, a stroke ahead of Brown. Brown had held the lead at 11 under par through 15 holes but bogeyed at the 16th and 17th holes dropped him back to a two-under-par 70 and a total of nine-under-par 207.

Sandy Lyle of Britain, Timmy Nakajima of Japan and Americans Raymond Floyd and Ed Frier were tied for third place at 208. Floyd had a 68, Lyle a 70, and Nakajima and Frier 71s.

Bogey

Sindelar, who has won three tournaments on the tour, had five birdies and only one bogey. He has had only two bogeys all week and that is a little unusual for him.

He said with a laugh: "I usually go birdie, eagle, double bogey, but I'm playing very well right now, good solid relaxed golf."

Gonzalez sets new mark

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

ICC Trophy

KIFCO meet Startite in the final of the ICC Trophy Cricket Tournament tomorrow at the NC Ground. The match, organised by the Kuwait Cricket League, will start at 9.00 am. Ashraf Khan, general manager of Kifco, will give away the prizes.

Spanish soccer

MADRID, March 13, (Renter): Real Madrid warmed up in swagging style for their European Cup quarterfinal second-leg tie against Bayern Munich, thrashing visitors Athletic Bilbao 5-0 in the Spanish League yesterday.

World Cup

ROSSLAND, B.C., March 13, (AP): Michela Figini, angered by her poor performance last weekend in Aspen, Colorado, outclassed her opposition to win the husky World Cup downhill yesterday.

Iraq triumph

IRAQ beat Qatar 3-0 in a 9th Gulf Football Tournament match in Saudi Arabia yesterday. All the goals were scored in the second half. In the other match played yesterday, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates played to a 2-2 draw.

Sri Lanka win

HARARE, Zimbabwe, March 13, (AP): Sri Lanka opened its month-long tour of Zimbabwe with a convincing 9-wicket victory over a young Zimbabwe side at Harare Sports Club today.

Italian soccer

ROME, March 13, (Reuters): Results of Italian First Division soccer matches.

Avellino	1	Juventus	0
Cesena	2	Sampdoria	0
Como	0	Roma	1
Empoli	0	Napoli	0
Inter	2	Pisa	1
Pescara	1	Florentina	1
Torino	1	Milan	1
Verona	2	Ascoli	1

Championship race

MADRID, Spain, March 13, (AP): The team of American Eddie Cheever and Briton Martin Brundle, driving a Jaguar XJR-9, won the second event for the World Sports Prototype Cars Championship race today.

Africa Cup

CASABLANCA, March 13, (Reuters): Morocco drew 1-1 (halftime 1-0) with Zaïre in their opening match of the Africa Nations Cup soccer finals in Casablanca today.

Majorca Open

PALMA DE MAJORCA, Spain, March 13, (Reuters): Severiano Ballesteros capitalised on three mistakes by fellow Spaniard Jose Maria Olazabal to win the Majorca Open golf championship by six strokes today.

Filipino games

CAGAYAN DE ORO, Philippines, March 13, (AP): President Corason Aquino opened the five-day Palarong Pampansa National Athletic Games today, telling a crowd of more than 50,000 people that the Games would "foster national unity."

HOUGHTON, BEARDSLEY, JOHNSTON AND BARNES SCORE

Liverpool brush aside City

LONDON, March 13, (Reuters): Liverpool, the unbeaten run-away leaders of the English First Division, maintained their hopes of a 'double' triumph today when they marched into the semifinals of the FA Cup with a 4-0 win at Second Division Manchester City.

Despite the absence of their leading scorer Irish international striker John Aldridge, Liverpool totally outclassed their opponents and won with goals from Ray Houghton, Peter Beardsley, Craig Johnston and John Barnes.

The win secured Liverpool's place in the last four of the Cup alongside Luton Town, Nottingham Forest and Wimbledon. The draw for the semifinals will be made tomorrow.

On a heavy, rain-soaked pitch, Liverpool dominated from the start and City were given few chances to show the promise which has earned them a reputation as the most talented young side in England.

After spending half an hour



Barnes kept troubling City

adjusting to the conditions. Liverpool took the lead with a beautifully executed goal in the 32nd minute.

England winger Barnes, whose skill and pace was a constant source of embarrassment to

City's defence, escaped on the left and from his low cross Houghton hooked the ball in at the near post.

City had one of their rare openings before the interval when a low Paul Stewart shot was saved, but soon afterwards they were killed off when Peter Beardsley scored from a hotly disputed penalty in the 53rd minute.

Johnston, Aldridge's deputy, broke away through the middle, rounded City goalkeeper Mike Stowell and was then adjudged to have been brought down as Paul Lake stretched to make a recovering tackle.

Advantage Beardsley stroked the ball in from the spot and Liverpool went on to take full advantage of City's later defensive lapses with Johnston and Barnes scoring further goals.

With a 14-point lead in the First Division, Liverpool look certain to win the League title and are on course for a repeat of their 1986 double triumph — only the second achieved this

century.

On the way they may also set a new English record by eclipsing Leeds' run of 29 games without defeat from the start of the season. Liverpool could equal that 1974 record when they go to Derby on Wednesday and then beat it by avoiding defeat away to City rivals Everton next Sunday.

The other three semifinal places were settled yesterday when Nottingham Forest won 2-1 at Arsenal, Luton beat Portsmouth 3-1 and Wimbledon, despite being reduced to 10 men, came from behind to beat Watford 2-1.

When Forest step out for their semifinal on April 9 or 10, it will be manager Brian Clough's first experience of reaching the last four in a highly successful 32-year career in soccer.

Luton, having secured three Wembley appearances already — in the League's centenary festival, the English League Cup and the full Members' Cup — will be chasing a record third Cup final place.

Jahangir wins French Open

PARIS, March 13, (Agencies): Second seeded Jahangir Khan of Pakistan beat world champion Jansher Khan, also of Pakistan and the top seed, 15-9 10-15 15-13 15-3 to win the French Open squash championship here today.

Jansher, who had beaten Jahangir eight times consecutively before this event, had no answer to the former world champion's speed in this match although the first three sets were close.

Jahangir won the first set easily but Jansher refused to give up the fight and fought back valiantly to take the second set and level the match.

The third set proved to be a very closely fought affair with the game swinging both ways until

the very end when Jahangir's better fitness and experience seemed to prevail over his younger opponent. The fourth set was 'no contest' as Jahangir, sensing victory, conceded only five points to win the set and the game.

In the women's finals, Martine Le Moignan of Britain beat Liz Orving of Australia 12-15 17-15 17-15 15-14 to clinch the title.

Yesterday Jansher took just under an hour to beat Australian Chris Dittmar in the semifinals. Both players demonstrated the volleying and drop-shot technique that highlighted their final meeting in last year's World Open. And once again Jansher was the superior player, winning 15-7 8-15 15-7 15-7.

The audience applauded the red-headed Dittmar's zest and

fire, but it was spent after the second game.

Yesterday Jahangir won his semifinal against New Zealand's Ross Norman 17-15 15-14 15-8.

In the women's semifinals, second-seeded Lisa Opie of Britain succumbed to Irving, seeded fourth, letting her temper damage her play after leading by two games to one. Irving won 15-10 12-15 14-17 15-11 15-12.

Le Moignan, who was the French Open champion in 1984, defeated Australian Michelle Martin 15-12 15-11 15-9 in the other semifinal yesterday. World champion Suzan Devoy of New Zealand, who lost to Martin on Friday, said yesterday she intended to retire after the British Open in April.

She has said before that she would quit and has not, but she had not previously lost in three tournaments in succession.

Bridge

RESULTS of the SAS Bridge Club game played on Sunday:

N/S
1st Nabil Akel & Lolita Marthwaite
2nd Sandra Turvey & Gill Wilde
3rd Camilla Guirgis & Jamila Akel
E/W
1st Lynn Edwards & Pearl Leavy
2nd Janet Chiles & Nida Khalaf
3rd Houda Tanas & Camille Sawabai.

India urged to reconsider Cup decision

NEW DELHI, March 13, (Kuma): Arab ambassadors in India have urged the Indian government to reconsider its decision to participate in the Davis Cup world group regulation tennis match against Israel in Tel Aviv.

Expressing "surprise" over the reported decision, chief representative of the Arab ambassadors Moammad El Hassan Shaboo yesterday said he hoped that India would take a "positive decision" in this regard.

"India's positive decision is of utmost importance at a time when Arabs are fighting against Israeli repression in occupied territories," El Hassan said.

The ambassadors said they were first under the impression that no decision had been taken but statements by some Members of Parliament and reports in a section of the press suggested the contrary.

Meanwhile, the All-India Indo-Arab Friendship Association has warned that it would hold a demonstration outside the offices of the All-India Lawn Tennis Association (Allta), in New Delhi, if the Indian government did not reconsider its decision.

Miskulnig hopes to do well in Kuwait International Rally

By Gail Seery

AS the days to the 9th Kuwait International Rally roll by, all drivers are now busy practising and making their final preparations.

One local driver who feels that he is fully prepared is Josef Miskulnig. He announced yesterday that he and partner Klaus Schwingenshloegl now have full sponsorship from International Optics for their Nissan 240RS, the seventh of the eighth Group B cars entered in the rally. The eighth is driven by Ahmed Al Nasser.

Although the contract with International Optics is for this rally, Miskulnig hopes that a good showing on his part will gain him backing for the rest of the season. There can be little doubt that Miskulnig deserves the support.

Showing

He started his rally career in Kuwait as Ottmar Lange's co-driver. Together they came second in the 1985 Kuwait International, and notched a series of good results. Then in the second rally of the 1987 season Miskulnig took to the wheel himself, putting up a commendable showing and coming fifth.

In the International rally last year, Miskulnig and co-driver Alexis Tuttle had been running well and their team looked set to take the team prize, when the engine of their locally prepared Audi Quattro blew on the final stage. Miskulnig was to find that repairing the Quattro in time for the ensuing rallies was not feasible, and he started this rally with a new car, the Nissan 240RS which formerly belonged to Awad Al Wadani.

On the very first stage of the last local rally, Miskulnig and Schwingenshloegl found some children on the rally route in front of them, left the track and made a bad landing in which they damaged their steering. That this driver had already climbed back from the bottom of the field to twelfth position by regrouping, and ultimately finished in eighth place, is a measure of his potential.

On the second stage the pair put in the fourth fastest time, then the third fastest time on stage 3, and second fastest on stage 4, climbing steadily back through the ranks. On stage eight he took the fastest time, but subsequently suffered problems which again slowed him, and kept him back to eighth place. A quick glance at the time for the



Wael Khoury (centre) addresses the press conference. On his right is Mansoor Al Mulla and left, Abdullah Barkawi. (Photo by Javed Basra)

event shows that without that initial setback Miskulnig would have finished in fourth place at the lowest, and probably higher. Now he aims to be the first local finisher, and placed within the top five in Thursday and Friday's rally — a realistic aim.

Miskulnig and Schwingenshloegl are making a strong bid for this year's National Championship, and will be well worth watching.

"The car was ready yesterday after a complete rebuild from bumper to bumper," explained Miskulnig. "It took a month and I also went to London to get spare parts for it. As far as we can judge it's in very good condition, but you never know what will happen in a rally. The sponsorship gives us the chance to push a little harder."

The distinctive Nissan has now been repainted dark pink to make it more distinguishable, and Miskulnig was out testing it on Saturday. "The track suits us as the car is both powerful and strong. However the outside competitors have top cars."

He feels that whereas most attention focuses on the driving, talents of the region's two superstars, it is a mistake to overlook the strong advantage their cars and teams give them.

"The stages are quite rough now after the rain, especially the first lap. From then on it's fast. The only thing that can go wrong is that we have mechanical problems."

Eid Falah Al Farzan, driving under Marlboro/Al Zayani sponsorship feels that it is a good rally. He thinks that driving the strong Range Rover, a Zayani built car, will give him a definite advantage on stages two and three of the first day. The four wheel drive will be a good help he is sure, but he hasn't yet tested his rally car. Like his colleagues, Eid

Falah, and his ex-Champion Navigator Sadeq Ashkanani are aiming for a good finish so that they can pick up as many points towards the National Championship as possible.

"The Range Rover had a good test in the Marlboro Desert Challenge, and proved itself the best. I'm testing ready for this year's championship," he told the Arab Times.

Ghazi Al Zafiri has entered the Suzuki jeep, now completely rebuilt since its last outing in Bahrain, and is very optimistic about his chances of a good finish. "They are nice stages, especially at night." He has confidence in the strength of his engine and has been promised help for the rally by Mustafa Karam company. He feels that the rally is more difficult for the private entrants. "It's cost me a lot of money," he said. Zafiri is on the KTMDS committee as PR representative.

Advantage Mohammed Bin Sulayem, the reigning Middle East Champion and his co-driver Ronan Morgan have also arrived, and were out practising over the last two days. "It's easy driving, but I think the Quattro will have the advantage on these stages in terms of traction," he said. "You never know what will happen during the rally, but we are looking for a good competition, and for a good year."

Meanwhile, the organising committee are immersed in their own preparations, and yesterday held a press conference in the ballroom of the SAS Hotel, presided over by Clerk of the Course and Chairman of the Organising Committee, Wael Khoury. Other organising committee members are Jack Lubbat, Joop Vis, Jia Goldsworthy, Geoff Clark, Mansoor Al Mulla, Abdullah Barkawi and myself.

Evergreen clinch title



Evergreen skipper Asad Belg receives the trophy from M.L.R. Jafri.

RASHID ANSARI, bowling with a lot of venom, took seven wickets for only 12 runs in six overs to help Evergreen beat Brothers XI by three wickets in the final of the Indian Teaboard Trophy cricket tournament at the EPI ground on Friday.

Rashid, taking full advantage of the moderate wind which was suitable for his swing bowling, dismissed six batsmen in his last eight deliveries without conceding a run. His feat included a hat-trick.

Placed

Brother Sporting, after winning the toss, batted first and were handsomely placed at 100 for two in the 23rd over. Rashid started his act at this stage and Brothers lost the remaining eight wickets in the next four overs for the addition of only 23 runs.

The only batsmen to get into double figures were Mehboob (19), Qamar-uz-Zaman (33), Asghar (30 n.o.) and Shehzad (20). For Evergreen, Zahid (one for eight) and Razzak (one for 19) were the other wicket-takers.

Evergreen, requiring only 124 runs for victory in 45 overs, opened their innings through Zaghar and Amjad. Zaghar left at 26 after scoring 13 while Amjad was out for 16. When Azam left at 77, after scoring 44, the Evergreen innings lost momentum and at one stage they were tottering at 114 for seven with Asif (11), Razzak (nine), Zulquernian (no score) and Ashraf Rana (four) were all back in the pavilion.

G. Haider (12 n.o.) and Rashid Ansari (three n.o.) played sensibly to take Evergreen past the victory target without being separated.

For Brother Sporting, Siddique gave a very good display of spin bowling and took five wickets after giving away 40 runs. He was ably supported by Abid and Qamar-uz-Zaman who took one wicket each.

At the end of the match, the chief guest M.L.R. Jafri, first secretary at the Indian Embassy, distributed prizes among players of both teams.



Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

ARAB TIMES

Published by

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(10)

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